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Technical assistance

Good practices and experiences of, and relevant measures taken by, States parties after the completion of the country reviews, including information related to technical assistance

Note prepared by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. During the fifth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Secretariat presented a note entitled “Translating commitment into results: the impact of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption” (CAC/COSP/2013/14). During the same session, in its decision 5/1, the Conference decided that the Implementation Review Group should begin promptly to collect, with the support of the Secretariat, and discuss relevant information in order to facilitate the assessment of performance of the Mechanism. The Conference also decided that the Group should include in its future sessions an agenda item allowing for the discussion of such information.

2. While “Translating commitment into results” was well received, it was primarily based on the experiences of Secretariat staff who had participated in country reviews or provided technical assistance to States parties in preparation for, during or subsequent to the country review process. However, encouraged by the discussions during the fifth and subsequently at the resumed fifth sessions of the Group and in line with decision 5/1, the Secretariat addressed a note verbale¹ to States parties that had completed their reviews, inviting them to submit information on any action they had taken in follow-up to gaps or needs identified during the

* Reissued for technical reasons on 18 October 2016.

¹ Secretariat reference CU 2015/46/DTA/CEB/CSS, dated 25 February 2015.



review. The information contained in the 20 responses received was in part included in the note prepared by the Secretariat for the sixth session of the Conference, entitled “Assessment of the performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption” (CAC/COSP/2015/6). It should be noted that, at the time when the note verbale was sent, some 80 executive summaries had been finalized.

3. In its resolution 6/1, the Conference again encouraged States parties to continue voluntarily sharing information on good practices, experiences and relevant measures taken after the completion of their reviews, including information related to technical assistance, and to consider providing such information to the Secretariat for publication on its website.

4. Recalling its previous request for information and in line with Conference resolution 6/1, the Secretariat sent out a second note verbale,² in which it encouraged States parties to submit information on good practices, experiences and measures taken after the completion of the reviews, as well as on technical assistance received or provided as related to needs identified in the country review reports. The aim of that request was to solicit further information that could serve as a basis for analysis and discussion by the Group on the performance of the Mechanism during its resumed seventh session. By August 2016, another 14 substantive replies had been received in response to the second note verbale, six of which communicated that no further information would be forthcoming or reconfirming a previous submission. By directly soliciting the statements made by numerous States parties during their interventions at the seventh session of the Implementation Review Group, the Secretariat gathered an additional seven submissions.

5. The present note consolidates 35 contributions received from States parties and, in line with resolution 6/1, is aimed at providing an account of good practices, experiences and measures taken by States parties after the completion of their reviews.³

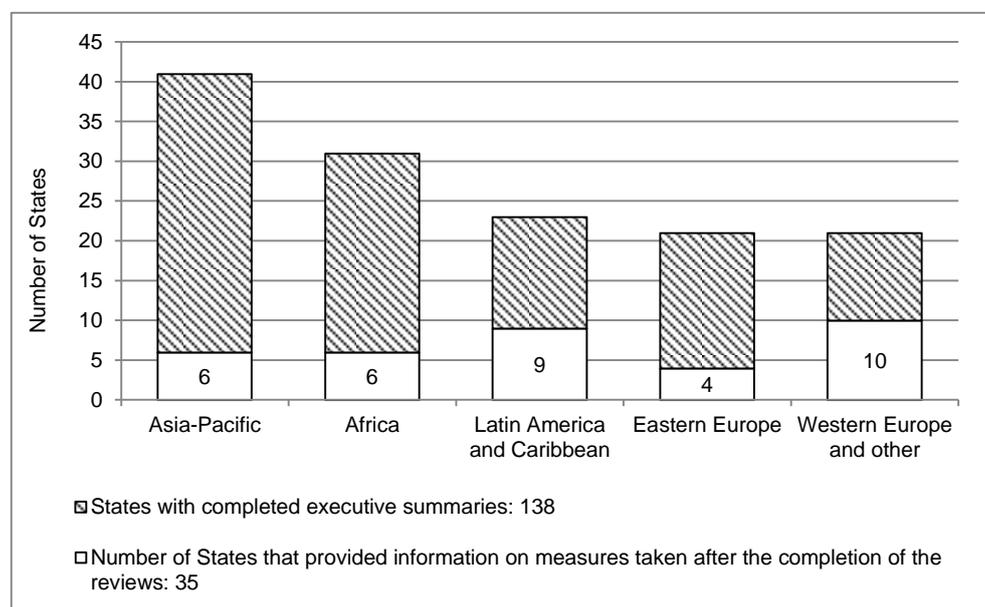
6. At the time of writing of the present note,⁴ 137 States had their executive summaries completed under the first cycle of the Mechanism, of which 35 States, or 25 per cent, had provided relevant information on good practices, experiences and measures taken after the completion of their reviews in response to the Secretariat’s official and unofficial requests. A regional breakdown of replies from States that have completed their executive summaries is shown in figure I below.

² Secretariat reference CU 2016/91/DTA/CEB/CSS, dated 17 April 2016.

³ The following States provided relevant information: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

⁴ As of August 2016.

Figure I
Number of States that have completed executive summaries and/or provided information on measures taken after the completion of the reviews (as of August 2016)



7. Based on the responses received and information collected, the present note seeks to provide a tentative, but accurate, analysis by giving an overview of various legislative amendments, institutional changes and other measures to improve national and international cooperation undertaken by these States parties after the completion of the reviews.

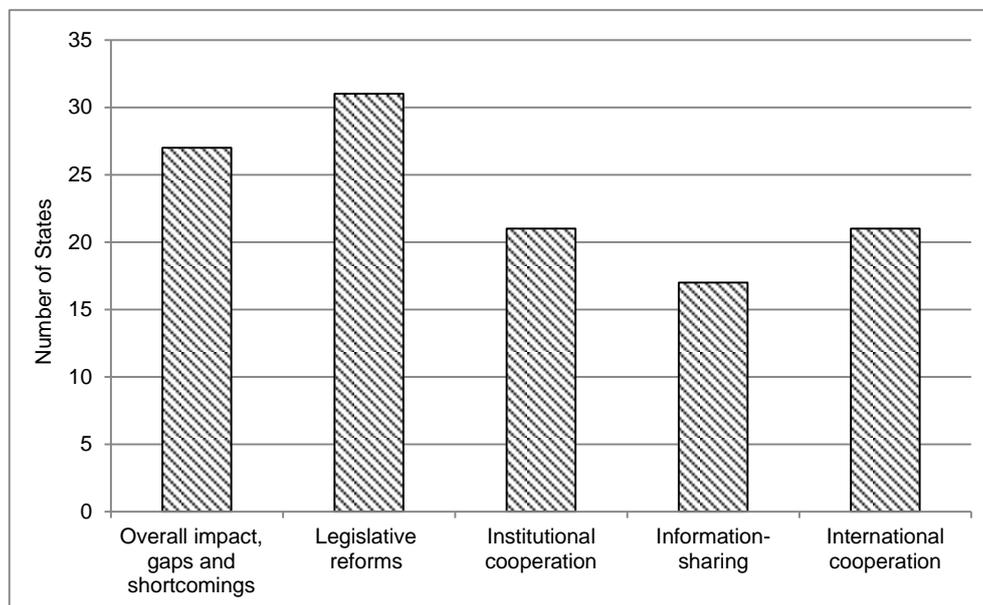
8. The following statistics are based on the replies received and information submitted (see figure II below):

- **89 per cent** of States provided information on how the review had had an impact on their legislative reform efforts by outlining the **adoption of new laws or the amendment of current laws** to bring them into line with the requirements of the Convention.
- **77 per cent** found that the Mechanism and its peer review had **helped identify gaps and shortcomings** in their frameworks and systems for fighting corruption and/or noted the **overall positive impact of the Mechanism** on their national efforts to fight corruption.
- **60 per cent** explained how undergoing the review and participating in the work of the Mechanism had **improved their institutional structure and cooperation** at the national level.
- **60 per cent** noted the positive impact of the reviews on **strengthening their international cooperation capacities**, both at the domestic level and vis-à-vis other States parties. The Mechanism had helped create a global community of practitioners in fighting corruption.

- **49 per cent** provided examples of how **information-sharing** among their national institutions **had been enhanced** as a result of engaging in the review process and addressing the subsequent recommendations.

Figure II

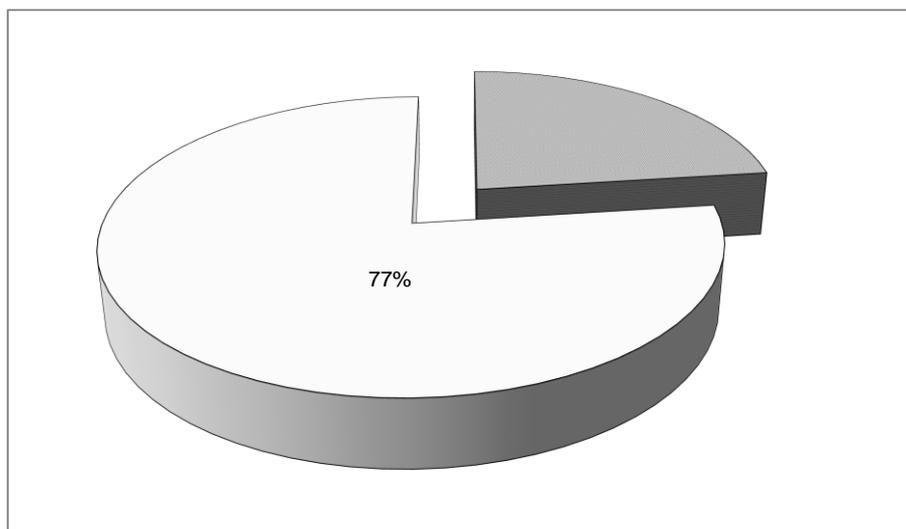
Topics regarding which States parties provided information in their replies



II. Identifying gaps and shortcomings in national frameworks for fighting corruption

9. In their responses, apart from describing concrete measures taken after the completion of their reviews, 77 per cent of States explicitly highlighted the important role played by the Mechanism in identifying gaps and shortcomings in their existing frameworks for fighting corruption, as well as in identifying concrete ways forward for States parties to address such gaps and strengthen the system as a whole (see figure III below). These States explained how the review process had helped them understand the existing challenges in implementing the Convention and had served as a catalyst for domestic reform. In addition to concrete measures, States described in detail how the process of the reviews and the Mechanism in itself had led them to put significant efforts into addressing the recommendations issued and gaps identified during the review process.

Figure III
Percentage of States that reported on overall impact, gaps and shortcomings



10. Several States emphasized the benefits of their participation in the Mechanism both as a State party under review and as a reviewing State. In particular, States highlighted the learning value of the Mechanism and described how the review process provided an opportunity to share information, acquire new knowledge and learn from the experiences and good practices of other States. One State explained that, from the perspective of being a reviewing State, the Mechanism had provided an opportunity to learn from the various innovative measures and practices of the States parties under review that had gone beyond the minimum requirements of the Convention. The State had subsequently incorporated such good practices, including those related to the liability of legal persons (art. 26 of the Convention) and the administration of forfeited property (art. 31, para. 3), into its own laws. This peer-learning dimension of the Mechanism was previously noted in the Secretariat's aforementioned note on "Translating commitment into results", and the responses received from States have confirmed that it remains a fundamental contributor to the success of the Mechanism.

11. More than half of the responses received reflected how the outcome documents of the Mechanism, namely the executive summaries and the full country review reports, were of great value and utility to the States parties. One State explained how the executive summary had contributed to enhanced capacity-building efforts related to the implementation of several Convention provisions, such as article 30 on prosecution, adjudication and sanctions, and article 31 on freezing, seizure and confiscation. Another State indicated that, following the completion of its review and owing to the importance of the Mechanism, it had officially presented its executive summary in the national media to celebrate International Anti-Corruption Day. Similarly, in another State, press releases had been issued upon the completion of both the executive summary and the full country review report. Several States underlined how the full country review reports had provided other States with an opportunity to get acquainted with their legislation, experiences and institutional framework. One State explicitly stated that it had published its full country review report so that other States could benefit from its

experiences and learn from its problems. Another State, which provides technical assistance programmes in the field of fighting corruption, explained that it regularly used the outcomes of the Mechanism to identify raw needs for technical assistance and, for that purpose, emphasized the usefulness of making the full country review reports available to provide additional information and a deeper understanding of the situation at the national level.

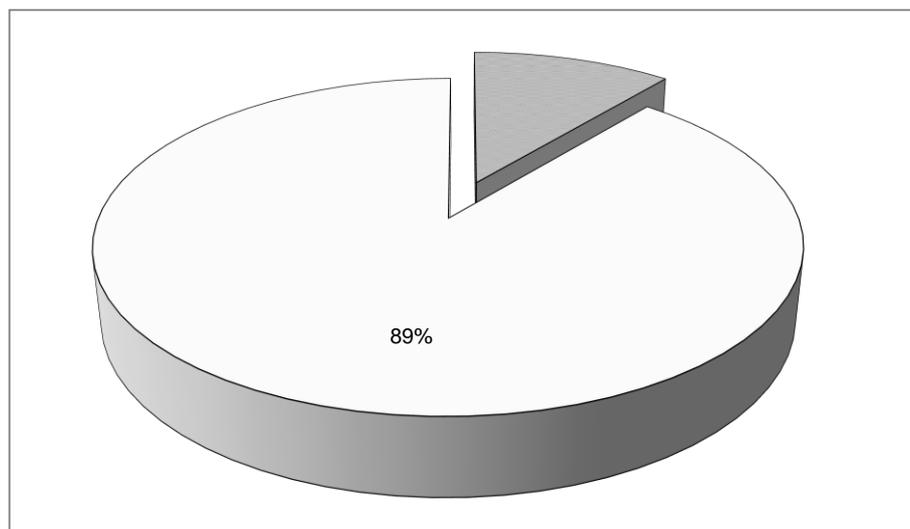
12. Several States stressed the importance of the recommendations issued during the review process in identifying shortcomings in their national systems for fighting corruption. One State explained that the recommendations had played an important role in defining the gaps between national legislation and the Convention. Another State described how it had used the recommendations as a basis for designing a new comprehensive national strategy for fighting corruption. One State reported that, although it had been in the process of addressing gaps in its framework for fighting corruption even prior to the review, it noted that the Mechanism had helped accelerate the process by formulating clear recommendations. These recommendations had served as an impulse for strengthened cooperation and efforts in the fight against corruption at the national level. Other States reported that they had taken into consideration the recommendations issued following the review process in order to conduct their own assessments of their domestic framework for fighting corruption.

III. Triggering legislative reform and changes

13. As has been noted in previous notes⁵ by the Secretariat on technical assistance needs and the technical assistance delivery of UNODC, as well as during the oral updates of the sixth and the seventh Implementation Review Group meetings, legislative drafting, amendments and the adoption of new laws could be seen as a general trend and natural consequence of the reviews during the first cycle. In effect, in particular the Convention's chapter III, but also chapter IV, outline a large number of legislative requirements to criminalize corrupt practices. In line with this analysis, more than 80 per cent of States reported on their concrete legislative measures taken after the completion of their country reviews covering a broad range of topics (see figure IV below). States indicated that they had adopted or were in the process of adopting new laws or legal provisions with the aim of better implementing the Convention's requirements and addressing the recommendations issued during the review process. One State provided information on legislative reform efforts that had remained unsuccessful to date, but indicated that the main body for fighting corruption would nevertheless persevere in a bid to enhance conformity with the Convention and address the observations stemming from the peer review.

⁵ See, for example, CAC/COSP/2015/4.

Figure IV
Percentage of States that reported on legislative reform



14. Based on the responses received, the most common legislative reform related to the protection of reporting persons. Nearly a third of the States reported having adopted or being in the process of drafting or adopting new legislation on the protection of reporting persons (art. 33 of the Convention). One State advised that a new draft law on the protection of reporting persons in the private sector was aimed at covering schools, as well as the health care and social services sectors. Another State had adopted a new law on the prevention of corruption, which contained a full chapter dedicated to the protection of reporting persons.

15. The relatively high number of States reporting on new measures concerning the protection of reporting persons follows the previously established trend of article 33 remaining among the top three articles for which technical assistance needs⁶ were most frequently identified. Article 33 is also one of the articles for which the largest number of States parties had been issued a recommendation during the review process.

16. Information on the technical assistance activities of UNODC in response to this trend can be found in the note by the Secretariat on technical assistance in support of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CAC/COSP/IRG/2016/11).

17. Over a third of States parties had taken legislative measures to increase sanctions and eliminate discrepancies between sanctions for corruption offences. Such measures included amendments to the criminal code to remove discrepancies in sanctions for active and passive bribery, as well as a measure to increase penalties for trading in influence. Other legislative reforms were broader and ranged from increasing penalties for all corruption offences in one State's new criminal code to several States establishing or broadening the criminal liability of legal persons, together with new or increased penalties for legal persons. In response to recommendations issued, several States reported having extended their statute of

⁶ See CAC/COSP/2015/4 and CAC/COSP/IRG/2016/13.

limitations period for corruption offences, some by prolonging the duration of the period, and others by amending the period to start from the discovery of the crime rather than from its commission.

18. Some 20 per cent of replies indicated that recommendations issued during the review process had led the States to amend or expand their laws related to fighting money-laundering, including by broadening the scope of predicate offences.

19. Other common legislative measures taken after the completion of the reviews, which were reflected in more than a third of the replies received, included: introducing new corruption offences in the criminal codes in line with the Convention (e.g. trading in influence, bribery in the private sector, illicit enrichment); enhancing provisions to cover all the elements of the relevant definition of the Convention (i.e. broad scope of the terms public official, direct and indirect bribery, third-party benefits and undue advantage); introducing new provisions on mandatory asset declarations for public officials; and strengthening legal provisions on witness protection. Two States parties had adopted legislative amendments to eliminate the power of the Minister of Justice to give instructions to prosecutors and decide not to extradite criminals. One State was in the process of modifying its criminal code to extend the reversal of the burden of proof to corruption offences. Another State had amended its criminal code to criminalize the attempted commission of all Convention offences.

20. The adoption of new, separate laws to enhance the implementation of the Convention was reflected by the efforts of States to adopt laws on public procurement, money-laundering and terrorist financing, new national systems for fighting corruption, bribery in the private sector and forfeiture, among other things.

21. Legislative measures were also outlined in nearly a quarter of the replies in relation to chapter IV, with several States having introduced, or being in the process of introducing, legislative amendments concerning extradition and mutual legal assistance. In relation to extradition, one State reported that it had introduced new legal provisions concerning extradition for accessory offences, as well as grounds for refusing mutual legal assistance requests, to address the recommendations issued during the review process. Another State reported on its legislative amendments to increase the penalty for trading in influence and consequently make it an extraditable offence. Regarding mutual legal assistance and international cooperation more broadly, one State reported that the new amendments in its mutual legal assistance regime had streamlined some of the processes for providing certain types of such assistance to foreign States and increased the range of law enforcement tools that the authorities could use to assist in foreign investigations or prosecutions. Another State reported that it was in the process of adopting a new bill on international cooperation.

IV. Improved institutional cooperation

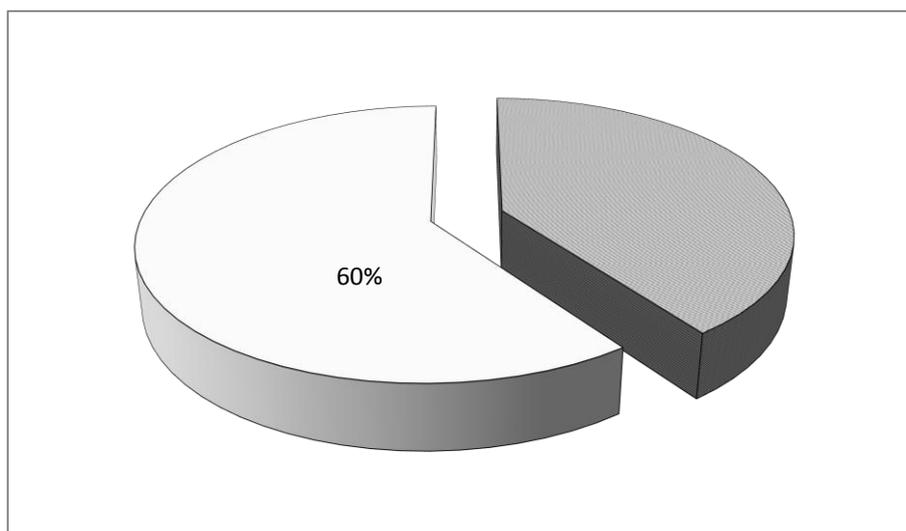
22. As proof that the institutional framework for fighting corruption exists in a changing national landscape, several States had designated a new or different central authority to deal with requests for mutual legal assistance under the Convention and had informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with

recommendations issued. Several States had also notified the Secretary-General of the languages acceptable for mutual legal assistance requests.

23. Furthermore, 60 per cent of States reported how undergoing the review and participating in the work of the Mechanism had led to improvements in their institutional structure and cooperation at the national level (see figure V below). Notably, States reported on concrete measures taken after the completion of their reviews that were aimed at improving the institutional framework for combating corruption and strengthening institutional cooperation. In effect, the overall institutional framework and its functioning remains a cornerstone of any State's successful fight against corruption.

Figure V

Percentage of States that reported on institutional cooperation



24. As for concrete examples of measures taken, one State had created a new high authority on the prevention of and fight against corruption and related offences. Another State had decided to merge four main administrative audit and inspectorate bodies to enhance their efficiency and management of financial, human and public resources and to reduce overlap between agencies with mandates to fight corruption. In response to observations made during the review process, one State had established a new financial intelligence unit, a national committee on combating money-laundering and terrorist financing, and an independent anti-corruption authority responsible for the development of a new comprehensive national strategy on fighting corruption.

25. The importance of establishing and maintaining within the judiciary a specialized capacity for fighting corruption was outlined by several States, one of which had established a new special public prosecutor's office for the fight against organized crime and corruption to follow up on the recommendations made during the review process, while another had set up a new prosecutor's office on corruption to allow for greater coordination in investigations and prosecutions. Another State had created a new coordination authority within the prosecutors' offices on corruption tasked with the development of investigation strategies and created a new specialized unit responsible for money-laundering investigations. One State had

introduced within its crime agency a new central unit on bribery and corruption to increase capacities to investigate corruption cases and to bring together the necessary resources. The need for specialized capacities had led one State to change its court structure to include specialized judges and public prosecutors on corruption. Another State reported on measures taken to modernize the selection processes in the justice administration to increase the professionalization of investigative bodies.

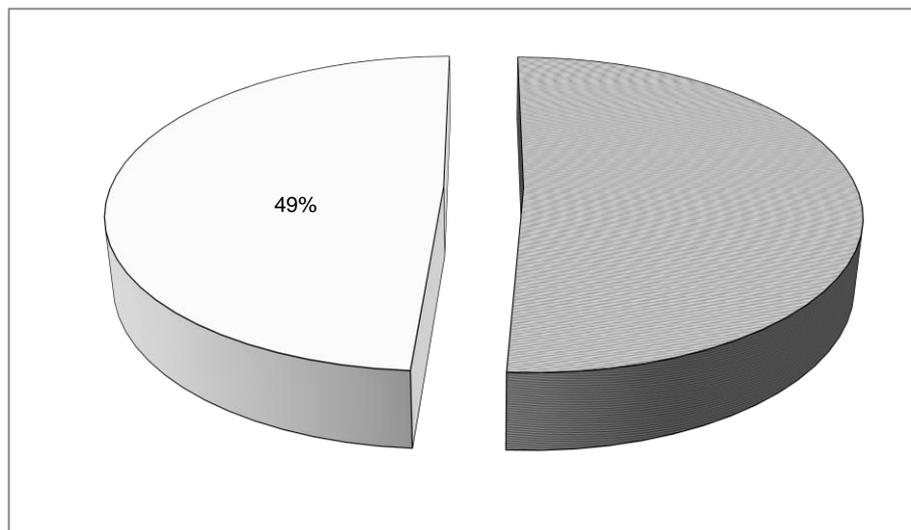
26. The high prevalence of measures taken to address article 33 of the Convention on reporting persons was also reported on in relation to institutional changes with the aim of strengthening the protection of reporting persons, as noted by several States. One State had decided to establish a dedicated office for the protection of reporting persons. One State had created an inter-institutional working group tasked with mapping legislation and practices related to protection of reporting persons. Another State had established a reporting hotline assisted by specialized personnel to allow for the filing of corruption-related complaints.

V. Enhanced information-sharing among national stakeholders

27. Nearly half of the States noted in their responses how the Mechanism and the review process had established and opened up new lines of communication among national stakeholders (see figure VI below). From the responses received, it can be observed that, in general, States referred to two main opportunities the Mechanism had provided for improved information-sharing and communication at the national level. The first opportunity included working together on the completion of the self-assessment checklist and being involved in other stages of the review process. Different national stakeholders had been brought closer together in terms of practical cooperation and communication. The second opportunity related to the implementation of concrete recommendations issued during the review process by strengthening communication and information-sharing among national stakeholders by way of organizing various inter-agency meetings and improving their data collection systems.

Figure VI

Percentage of States that reported on information-sharing



28. With regard to increased communication and information-sharing as a direct result of the involvement in the review process, several States underlined the value of the Mechanism in bringing national stakeholders closer together. One State reported that it had organized a broad range of activities and workshops for national institutions involved in the review process. Those events had promoted information-sharing and created a fruitful atmosphere among institutions. Another State explained that the level of cooperation between various national authorities had been enhanced as a result of working together to address the recommendations stemming from the review process. Several other States had organized various national inter-institutional events and workshops for national bodies that fight corruption to follow up on the outcomes of their reviews. Some States reported that the drafting of answers for the self-assessment checklist had proved to be a useful stage of the review process, as it had enabled States to consolidate an overview of the status of implementation of the Convention at the national level and to develop effective national strategies. Another State described how the drafting of the responses for the self-assessment checklist had brought national anti-corruption actors closer together.

29. With regard to the measures taken after the completion of the reviews to implement concrete recommendations issued, several States had undertaken new efforts to increase the effectiveness of national authorities that fight corruption and to improve cooperation at the national level. Joint training seminars and workshops appeared as one way in which several States had sought to improve national cooperation efforts. Such training events, workshops and conferences could either be dedicated to various corruption-related topics, such as illicit enrichment, bank secrecy and money-laundering, as in one State, or be aimed at enhancing cooperation between specific actors by holding a series of joint training courses and retreats, such as those involving national agencies that fight corruption and prosecutor's offices in another State. To this end, UNODC has supported the efforts of several States to establish coordination committees and other inter-institutional mechanisms to ensure that the human and financial investments made during the implementation review result in continued returns.

30. Several States described how, through creating dedicated committees and organizing inter-agency meetings, they had explicitly addressed, thematically or holistically, the recommendations issued during the review process. One State reported on the organization of consultative inter-agency meetings to address the issue of declarations of assets by public officials. In one State, national inter-agency meetings had been organized to share with national anti-corruption entities the conclusions of the review. Another State had established a permanent unit responsible for coordination among various authorities regarding the follow-up to the recommendations and the compilation of information on good practices.

31. Establishing and strengthening data collection systems remains a common and frequently cross-cutting recommendation stemming from the reviews, as States have often used the review as a starting point for data collection on corruption-related statistics. In effect, several States reported on their efforts to address recommendations issued during the review process concerning data collection, information-sharing and statistics. One State had developed a new action plan to elaborate a methodology to systematize data collection on cases related to corruption and money-laundering. To address a recommendation issued during the

review process regarding the collection of statistical data, one State reported that it was in the process of establishing a new computerized information system in the judicial administration aimed at creating a consolidated database of cases and improving access to comprehensive statistical data. Another had established a mechanism for coordination and information exchange aimed at strengthening coordination between existing law enforcement and audit mechanisms and allowing for better information-sharing between the competent authorities.

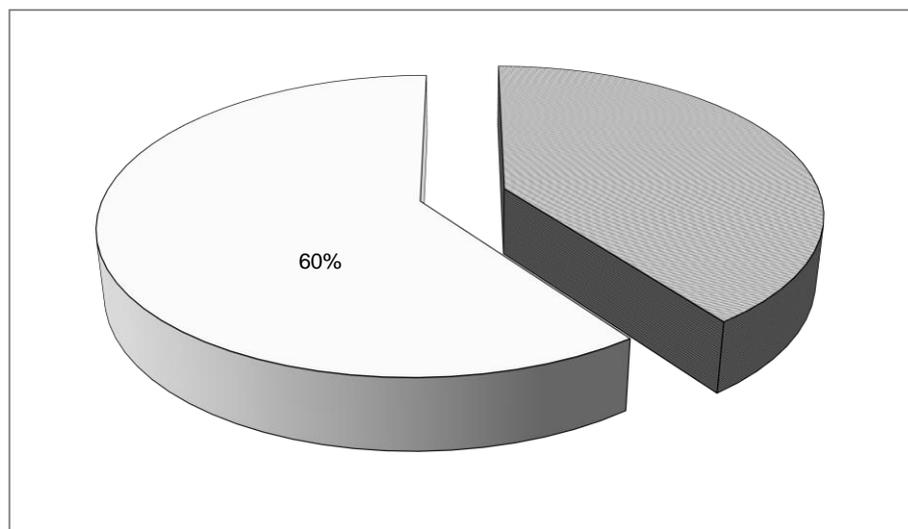
32. In relation to chapter IV, several States provided information on their efforts to build or strengthen case management systems for the purpose of tracking and managing international cooperation requests, which again resonates with a frequently occurring recommendation in relation to chapter IV. One State had introduced a new electronic case management system for international mutual legal assistance, enabling its Ministry of Justice to accurately track the number of requests for mutual legal assistance and to improve mechanisms for statistical reporting in that regard. Similarly, another State referred to the improvements made in its case management system to strengthen collection of data and statistics. A new case management tool was reported by another State, in which all mutual legal assistance and extradition requests were recorded. The tool also captured data on the treaty basis upon which a request for assistance had been made. The need for a timely response to requests for mutual legal assistance was highlighted by one State that was in the process of developing a new database to collect data regarding such requests, including tracking the time frame within which requests were executed.

VI. International cooperation: impact beyond the Convention and the Mechanism

33. In line with what was described in “Translating commitment into results” as the creation of a global community of practitioners in the fight against corruption, several States referred to the fact that the Mechanism was a practical demonstration of the international community working together to fight corruption. States expressed appreciation for the active interaction between experts during the review process and noted that the Mechanism had helped strengthen existing networks to fight corruption. Several States underlined the benefits of the involvement of civil society organizations in the review process.

34. Information from States relating to chapter IV generally followed the same pattern as measures taken following the completion of the review relating to chapter III, i.e. legislative and institutional reform, as well as efforts to enhance inter-institutional cooperation, as has been reported above. Some 60 per cent of States reported on measures taken related to international cooperation (see figure VII below). Most of the measures reported related in particular to extradition and mutual legal assistance.

Figure VII
Percentage of States that reported on international cooperation



35. The international dimension of corruption remains a fundamental aspect of the Convention. Recommendations are regularly issued in relation to international cooperation to ensure that the scope for such cooperation is not geographically limited. Consequently, several States reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation with other States, including through continued negotiations to conclude new bilateral extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties. One State reported that, in direct response to the recommendations issued, seven new inter-agency agreements with corresponding competent foreign authorities had been concluded and six drafts were being negotiated. Another State outlined its efforts to set up new cooperation mechanisms with foreign counterpart supervisory bodies and agencies, aimed at strengthening the fight against corruption.

36. While the intention of the present report was to highlight the action of States parties following the conclusion of the review, a number of States noted that the impact of efforts and measures undertaken within the framework of addressing the outcome of the country reviews and enhancing their national implementation of the Convention had gone well beyond that. One State noted that the positive effect of amending legislation on countering money-laundering had been a more favourable assessment by the Financial Action Task Force. Also in the area of countering money-laundering, a couple of States noted that the implementation review of the Convention had led them to enhance their engagement with their regional bodies for countering money-laundering.

37. One State highlighted how the consonance of the recommendations stemming from the Mechanism with those issued pursuant to the evaluation by another regional body had enhanced the overall importance of addressing the issues at stake. That was also helpful in that the State could address both sets of recommendations concurrently. It should be recalled that the Convention, in its article 64, states that the Secretariat shall ensure the necessary coordination with the secretariats of other international and regional organizations. Furthermore, one of the guiding principles of the Mechanism remains to complement, cooperate and avoid duplication of

efforts of other international and regional review mechanisms related to countering corruption.⁷ To date, the Secretariat has supported two joint country visits with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Participating countries welcomed these joint visits, particularly as being efficient in terms of time and resources for the country under review.

38. The momentum generated by efforts undertaken to complete the review under the first cycle has also led to initiatives that would be reviewed under chapter II of the Convention, on prevention. A couple of States provided information on initiatives to raise social and institutional awareness by tailoring school programmes from primary to tertiary levels on how to prevent and fight corruption. Other States continued working on completing the second cycle's assessment of chapters II and V directly after their completion of the first review cycle. One State reported that the preparation of the self-assessment checklist for the second review cycle had already significantly contributed to enhancing and building national capacities.

VII. Technical assistance

39. With regard to technical assistance needs identified during the review process, a separate analysis has been prepared by the Secretariat on technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews (CAC/COSP/IRG/2016/13). Nevertheless, in resolution 6/1, the Conference also requested States to share information related to technical assistance. While most information submitted to the Secretariat focused on efforts made and measures taken following the review process, a small number of States also included information related to technical assistance, either received or provided in relation to the outcome of the implementation reviews.

40. Some 40 per cent of the States that provided such information reported that they had received technical assistance from UNODC during the review process. One State underlined the important role played by UNODC in providing the necessary technical assistance requested subsequent to the review and welcomed a series of national workshops organized by UNODC aimed at monitoring the implementation of the recommendations arising from the review. Another State stressed the value of the Mechanism when it identified priorities for the provision of technical assistance to States parties that requested it, while another State indicated that, regretfully, it had not yet received any follow-up technical assistance or training.

41. UNODC continued to respond regularly to requests for national workshops and meetings dedicated to the implementation of the recommendations stemming from the review process. As examples of general support, UNODC assisted one State in mapping the next steps to finalize the draft national strategy to combat corruption, which addressed the implementation of the recommendations from the review process. In another State, UNODC conducted a capacity assessment of the commission to fight corruption and included planning for the implementation of recommendations arising from the review. Specialized and targeted efforts included delivery by UNODC of a series of capacity-building events to prosecutors and

⁷ See paragraph 3 (j) of the terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

magistrates in one State. In another State, UNODC facilitated a workshop that brought together policymakers, and governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and supported their efforts to prioritize necessary actions and identify agencies, resources required and relevant time frames to implement the recommendations from the review.

42. A full account of technical assistance provided by UNODC in support of the reviews can be found in the note by the Secretariat on technical assistance in support of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CAC/COSP/IRG/2016/11).

VIII. Conclusions and issues for further consideration

43. Some 20 per cent of States, including both those providing and receiving technical assistance, reported using the outcome of the implementation review as a basis for technical assistance programming. In one State, a three-year country programme in follow-up to the review recommendations has proved to have a positive effect in improving inter-institutional cooperation through regular meetings to advance the design and adoption of anti-corruption policies and legal framework. However, clearly more needs to be done in order to facilitate the use of the Review Mechanism as a tool for technical assistance programming and to strengthen the dialogue between partner countries and technical assistance providers and actively engage and commit both sides in the technical assistance aspects of the reviews.

44. The information received has allowed for an analysis that shows an impressive trend emerging with regard to the impact of the Review Mechanism during the first cycle. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that, of the States parties that provided information, 91 per cent were middle- or high-income countries, as only 9 per cent of the replies were submitted by least developed countries. This provides a clear picture of how the Review Mechanism has achieved a truly global impact. States parties are therefore encouraged to continue submitting information in order to expand the data used for the present note. The enhanced data collection will allow for an even more detailed analysis to be prepared. Furthermore, in line with paragraph 12 of Conference resolution 6/1, the Secretariat intends to share at least the responses submitted via note verbale, which will be published on the website of the seventh resumed session of the Implementation Review Group, as well as on the Group's dedicated country pages.