

8 March 2017

English only

Implementation Review Group

Eighth session

Vienna, 19-23 June 2017

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Implementation of Resolution 6/1 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Enhancing synergies in the cooperation with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption

Report prepared by the Secretariat

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the outcome of a workshop jointly organized by UNODC and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on enhancing synergies and sharing good practices in the conduct of international anti-corruption peer reviews. The workshop was organized pursuant to Resolution 6/1 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in which the Conference requested the enhancement of “synergies, in coordination and cooperation with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption”.

* [CAC/COSP/IRG/2017/1](#).



I. Introduction

1. On 22 and 23 September 2016, the competent secretariats of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Council of Europe, and UNODC, held a joint workshop on enhancing synergies and sharing good practices in the conduct of international anti-corruption peer reviews. The workshop was organized pursuant to a mandate in Resolution 6/1 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to “continue exploring and, where appropriate, enhancing synergies, in coordination and cooperation with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption” (see Resolution 6/1, operative paragraph 8).

2. The purpose of the workshop, which was hosted by the OECD in Paris, was to bring together the secretariats of five anti-corruption peer review mechanisms (i.e. the OECD Working Group on Bribery, the OECD Anti-corruption Network for the Istanbul Action Plan, the Council of Europe’s GRECO, the OAS’ MESICIC and UNODC) to share experiences, discuss challenges, explore ways to reduce overlaps, and to enhance the implementation of their respective instruments.

II. Methodology and overview of discussions

3. Over the course of two days, participants explored ways to better coordinate and share information, where appropriate, to enhance their respective monitoring processes. Participants took part in a series of break-out sessions to discuss a range of topics related to the conduct of international anti-corruption reviews, including initial data collection; the role of questionnaires and self-assessments; the organization of on-site visits; the drafting of peer review reports; follow-up to completed reviews; and consequences of non-compliance with relevant instruments.

4. The workshop presented a good opportunity for peer learning among the secretariats with regard to a range of topics. Among other topics, the challenge to ensure consistency of the reviews was discussed. While in one mechanism consistency was ensured through the secretary reading every report, another mechanism maintained lists of recommendations issued, and yet another mechanism had a designated group of secretariat staff that read the country reports for consistency. Another item of discussion concerned the use of the reviews as a basis for technical assistance. Here, one secretariat informed the participants that it always scheduled a follow-up country visit to publicly launch the review report and on that occasion donors were also invited. The cross-cutting analysis of information (thematic or regional) and the preparation of cumulative reports at the end of a phase or cycle was regarded as a good practice as it allowed for a more holistic view of the implementation of the instruments by all States parties, rather than a country specific assessment.

5. The workshop concluded with a session to collect potential measures to enhance coordination among the secretariats and good practices identified by participants over the course of the two days. Measures and good practices were identified regardless of their possible suitability for any of the other mechanisms. Moreover, it was pointed out that some measures depend on the availability of financial resources.

III. Coordination measures and conclusions

6. The potential measures to enhance coordination among the secretariats and the good practices that were identified during the workshop included, inter alia, to:

- Participation in each other’s meetings;

- Sharing information about schedules and monitoring reports and guidance produced by other secretariats;
- Further exploring practical measures to exchange primary data, e.g. legislation and statistics;
- Ensuring that scheduling of meetings/on-site visits etc. is done in a way which avoids conflicts in schedules;
- Further exploring with the countries under review the feasibility of joint on-site visits;
- Further streamlining internal mechanisms for ensuring quality and consistency of country review reports;
- Using simple, streamlined, measurable and consistent recommendations that focus on core issues and provide criteria for assessing progress in the implementation of recommendations;
- Improving cooperation on responses to technical assistance needs; and
- Exploring the possibility to organize return country visits to launch reports and garner support for recommendations, including from technical assistance providers.

7. While the secretariats agreed to improve cooperation, it was also noted that due to the different Terms of Reference of the mechanisms and the different phases or rounds in which they were operating, there were limitations to the possibility of emulating practices from one mechanism to another.

IV. Outlook

8. It was agreed that, while the secretariats can learn from each other, exchange experiences and work together to the degree possible, in order to go beyond the discussions at the initial workshop in September, it was important to involve interested States Parties to the different international instruments in future discussions.

9. It is therefore proposed to use the opportunity of the seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to be held in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017, to conduct a side event, involving the secretariats of the review bodies and interested States Parties. The side event would provide a forum to further exchange expectations, views and practical experiences on enhancing synergies in the cooperation with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption.