

27 May 2011

English only

Implementation Review Group**Second session**

Vienna, 30 May-3 June 2011

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Note on average time required for country reviews conducted in year 1 of the current cycle of the Review Mechanism

The present note outlines the actual timelines for those 25 reviews of year 1 of the first cycle of the Review Mechanism for which responses to the self-assessment checklist have been received. Taking into account starting dates of 5 and 23 August 2010 respectively, the below table illustrates, in italics, the average time that the various steps of the review process took in practice vis-à-vis the indicative timelines contained in the terms of reference of the Review Mechanism and the guidelines for governmental experts and the secretariat in the conduct of country reviews.

On average, focal points were appointed within the foreseen three weeks. It was not always possible to hold introductory teleconferences or meetings within the one month period foreseen, including due to delays in communication of the contact details of reviewing experts to the secretariat. Two months were therefore required on average to conduct these introductions. With regard to the self-assessment checklist submission, countries took on average 4.5 months to submit their complete responses, thus more than doubling the time allocated for this step. The time allocated for the circulation of the responses to the reviewing experts stayed on average within the time frame foreseen. However, this varied on a case by case basis depending on translation requirements. On average, the reviewing States parties submitted the outcome of the desk review within 1 ½ months. An additional month, which had originally not been foreseen in the guidelines, was needed for the Secretariat to translate comments, and, where requested, consolidate the outcome of the desk review in the blue print format for country review reports. As most country reviews were not finalized at the time of the second session of the Implementation Review Group (IRG), the timeframe allocated for subsequent steps, including the active dialogue and ultimately the finalization of the country review reports and executive summaries, was estimated.

The two country reviews that have been completed by the second session of the IRG were conducted within 8 ½ months.

Drawing of Lots

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Secretariat notifies within one month the State party under review and the reviewing States parties of the beginning of the conduct of the country review

