Report of the Implementation Review Group on its resumed fourteenth session, held in Vienna from 4 to 8 September 2023

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 resumed fourteenth session in Vienna from 4 to 8 September 2023, in an in-person format with a virtual component.

3. The Implementation Review Group held 10 meetings, which were chaired by Aftab Ahmad Khokher (Pakistan), Vice-President of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its ninth session. The Group considered items 2, 4, 7 and 9 of the agenda for its fourteenth session. In addition, the Group considered items 4, 5 and 6 of its agenda jointly with the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery.

4. 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, the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Working Group on Asset Recovery.

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1 At the request of a State party under review, redraws of reviewing States were carried out, including a provisional redraw in a case where the reviewing State had the option of deferring acting as reviewer 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 review.
B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. On 4 September 2023, the Implementation Review Group adopted the organization of work for the session as contained in document CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/1/Add.1.

C. Attendance

6. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the session: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, 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 Zambia.

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 Conference 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.


10. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, Commonwealth of Independent States, Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf, Economic Community of West African States, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, Group of States against Corruption, Inter-American Development Bank, International Anti-Corruption Academy, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), International Development Law Organization, League of Arab States, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative and Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States.
D. Documentation

11. The Implementation Review Group had before it the following documents:

(a) Annotated provisional agenda (CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/1/Add.1);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on lessons learned from other review mechanisms on their operation and transition to a next phase: experiences collected in transitions by other peer review mechanisms (part I) (CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/8);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on lessons learned from other review mechanisms on their operation and transition to a next phase: elements of peer review mechanisms subject to transitions, observations and trends (part II) (CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/8/Add.1);

(d) Thematic report prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of chapter V (Asset recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/9);

(e) Thematic report prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of chapter V (Asset recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: regional supplement (CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/9/Add.1);

(f) Thematic report prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of provisions of a cross-cutting nature in chapter II (Preventive measures) and chapter V (Asset recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/10);

(g) Thematic report prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of provisions of a cross-cutting nature in chapter II (Preventive measures) and chapter V (Asset recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: regional supplement (CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/10/Add.1).

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

12. On 8 September 2023, the Implementation Review Group adopted the report on its resumed fourteenth session (CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/L.1/Add.6), as orally amended.