

Tuesday, 13 October 2020

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 2(a): Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto: United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

In its resolution 9/1 on the establishment of the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention reaffirmed that the purpose of the Convention is, *inter alia*, to promote cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime more effectively. The Conference also stressed the need to take additional concerted action to reinforce the implementation of the Convention by States parties.

Moreover, in 2019 the General Assembly itself, in its resolution 74/177, entitled “Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity”, reaffirmed that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto represent the most important tools of the international community for fighting transnational organized crime. The Assembly also noted with appreciation that the number of States parties had reached 190, which was a significant indication of the commitment shown by the international community to combating transnational organized crime.

This acknowledgement in the aforementioned resolution of the General Assembly is the result of significant progress made gradually over the years to achieve almost universal adherence to the Convention. Indeed, from the 78 States parties at the first session of the Conference in 2004, the number increased to 107 at COP-2 (2005); 122 at COP-3 (2006); 146 at COP-4 (2008); 157 at COP-5 (2010); 172 at COP-6 (2012); 180 at COP-7 (2014); 187 at COP-8 (2016); and 190 at COP-10.

At this juncture in time, which marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption and opening for signature of the Convention, UNODC, as the guardian of implementation of the Convention, has demonstrated extensive work in support of States' efforts to implement the Convention and, for this purpose, continues to stand firmly at the disposal of Member States (both States parties and signatories) to assist them in shaping and putting in place effective criminal justice, law enforcement and international cooperation responses to transnational organized crime.

As you know, two years ago the Conference took an important step forward by establishing, in its resolution 9/1, the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto; by adopting, in the same resolution the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism; and by launching the preparatory phase of the review process in accordance with the thematic clusters and multi-year workplan contained in the appendix to those procedures and rules.

An important component of this preparatory phase was the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group for the purpose of finalizing and harmonizing, as necessary, the self-assessment questionnaires and preparing the

guidelines for conducting the country reviews and a blueprint for the lists of observations and the summaries of the reviews. This open-ended intergovernmental expert group was convened by UNODC in accordance with a mandate contained in resolution 9/1 of the Conference. The outcome of the work of the expert group, resulting from its two meetings, held in October 2019 and July 2020, is presented by the Chair of the expert group, Mr. Renaud Sorieul (France), in his statement under this agenda item.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished colleagues,

In its resolution 9/1, the Conference of the Parties further requested the Secretariat, in close consultation with and reflecting inputs from States parties, to further develop the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC), in accordance with the procedures and rules for the functioning of the mechanism to review the implementation of UNTOC and its Protocols contained in the annex to resolution 9/1, and to brief the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session about the updated portal for its consideration.

In implementation of the above mandate, the Secretariat developed RevMod as the new secure module of SHERLOC that will serve as the main communication tool and platform for national experts to be involved in the country reviews of the Review Mechanism. RevMod will host the self-assessment questionnaires, as finalized and as described by the Chair of the intergovernmental expert group established in accordance with resolution 9/1 of the Conference. Those self-assessment questionnaires will be the main information-gathering tools during the reviews and will be used to guide national experts through the review process.

RevMod was developed in close cooperation with Member States as per the mandate contained in resolution 9/1 and was tested by a group of volunteers from Permanent Missions in August 2020. The software is in its final stage of development and is expected to be finalized by the beginning of the review process.

States will be paired for their reviews through a process of drawing of lots which is expected to take place within six weeks from the launch of the review process, in line with the guidelines for conducting the country reviews approved by the IEG at its first session and brought to the attention of the Conference at this session for final adoption. The procedure for the drawing of lots was shared with States in August 2020 and additional information was made available through the website.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you know, the Review Mechanism is based on a mixed funding model, which combines existing regular budget and extrabudgetary resources as per resolution 9/1 and its procedures and rules. In this connection, a Global Programme to Support the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (GLOW97) was established in March 2019 to ensure the operation of the Mechanism through, inter alia, acceptance, management and usage of extrabudgetary resources, and is managed in accordance with resolution 9/1 and the procedure and rules for the functioning of the Review Mechanism.

The Conference has before it a report of the Secretariat entitled “Implementation status of the Global Programme to Support the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational

Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto” (CTOC/COP/2020/9). In this report, the Secretariat provides Member States with an update on the financial status of the Global Programme.

In terms of other documentation brought to the attention of the Conference under this agenda item, allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to reiterate what the Chair of the intergovernmental expert group established in accordance with resolution 9/1 of the Conference eloquently mentioned in his statement under this agenda item: the Conference has before it – for final adoption - the guidelines and blueprints for the list of observations and the summaries, approved by the IEG at its first session in October 2019 (see CTOC/COP/2020/8).

The Conference has also before it all four self-assessment questionnaires on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, organized per cluster, as contained in documents CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/2 - CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/5.

Under agenda item 2, the Conference has also before it a conference room paper containing a note by the Secretariat setting out information on the status of adherence to the Convention and its Protocols as at 12 October 2020 (CTOC/COP/2020/CRP.1).

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for your attention and I wish you fruitful deliberations.
