

# Update on the UNTOC Review Mechanism

Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants,  
10th Session

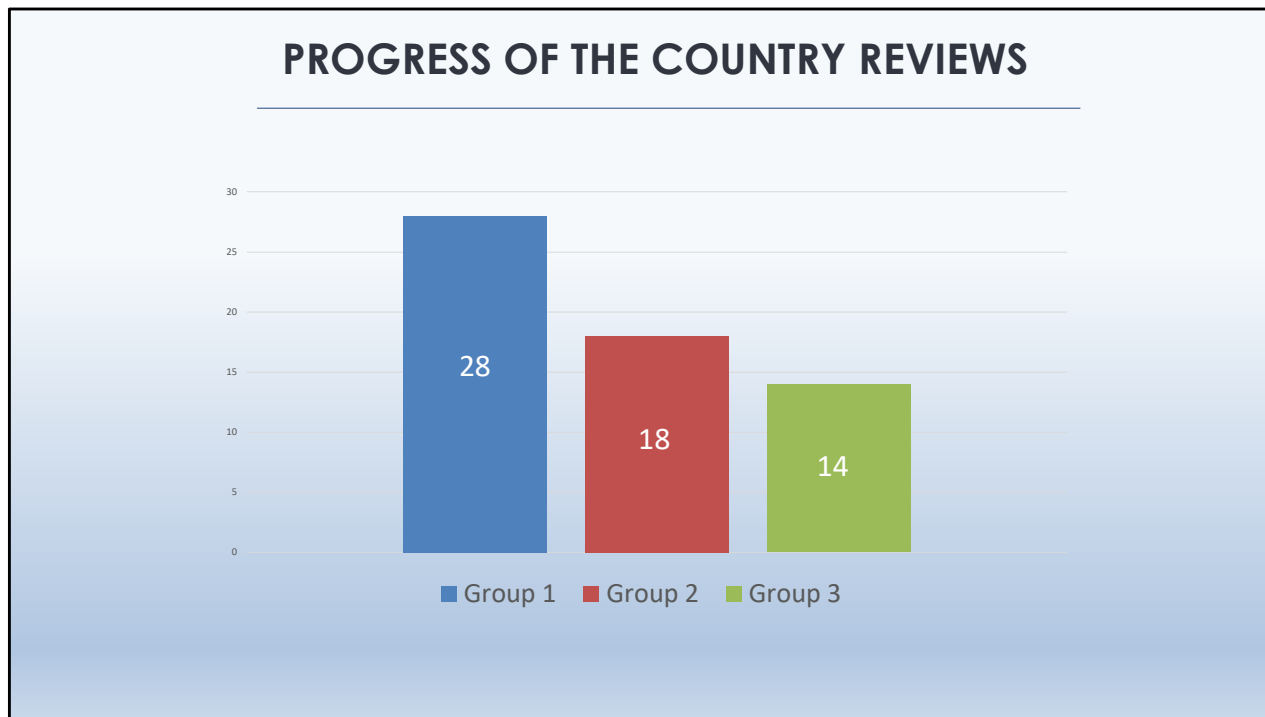
5 and 6 October 2023



The COP established the Mechanism for the review of the implementation of UNTOC and its Protocols in October 2018 and launched the review process in October 2020.

Part 1:

## Progress made in the country reviews



In accordance with the Procedures and Rules, the 189 Parties were divided into three groups by drawing of lots and started the first review phase respectively on 1 December 2020, 1 November 2021 and 1 November 2022. At this review phase, their implementation of cluster one of the articles of the Convention and its protocols, namely on criminalization and jurisdiction are reviewed. The review of each thematic cluster takes two years. The first group of States parties should have concluded their first review phase in December 2022, and the second group will be in November 2023.

**Status by group:**

Group 1 (62 reviews) : 9 reviews in the SAQ, 17 reviews in the written feedback; 2 reviews in the list of observations;

Group 2 (63 reviews) : 7 reviews in the SAQ, 11 reviews in the written feedback;

Group 3 (64 reviews) : 9 reviews in the SAQ, 5 reviews in the written feedback;

➤ **Totally, 60 active.**

➤ **Out of 129 inactive reviews, 50 are currently in the process of preparing for the preliminary consultation meeting, while another 79 reviews are missing at least one nomination of focal point.**

## Progress of the 1st thematic cluster since May

### PROGRESS



10

NEW REVIEWS HAVE  
COMMENCED



78

NEW FOCAL POINTS &  
GOV. EXPERTS NOMINATED



NEW REVMOD NOTIFICATIONS  
FEATURE RECENTLY DEPLOYED

### OVERALL PROGRESS



60 reviews  
progressing

31.7%



129 reviews have  
not started

68.3%

Since the FAWG and TAWG meetings in May which also discussed the review process, through the continued efforts of States Parties and the Secretariat, another 10 country reviews have been activated, 19 Focal Points and 59 Governmental Experts have been nominated. A new notification feature was inserted within the REVMOD platform that allows users to receive notifications on the progress of their reviews.

**To date, we have received a total of 1,299 nominations for focal points and governmental experts, of which 439 are female, 729 are male and 131 have not informed their gender.**



UNTOC REVIEW  
MECHANISM

Part 2:

## Challenges faced and assistance provided

## Challenges related to nominations:

- Missing Focal Points and Experts
- Repeated change of nominated officials
- Unresponsive Focal Points



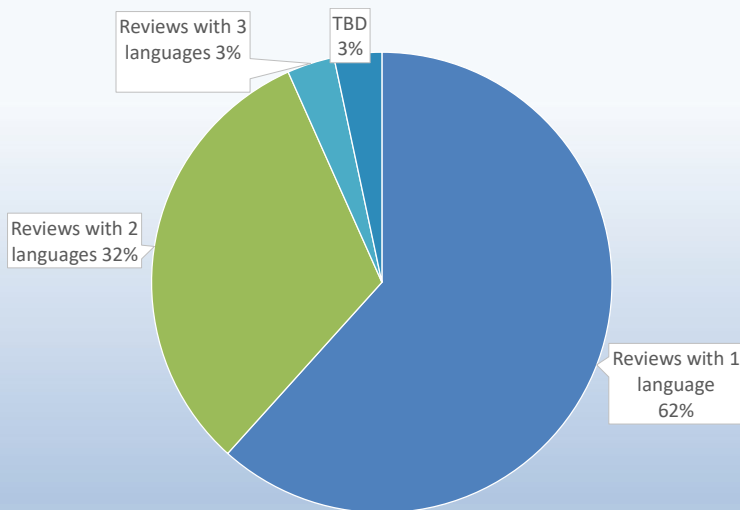
**Challenge/ Needs identified:** missing nomination, the repeated change in the nominees and the unresponsive focal points, an extensive, constant and close follow-up on this matter is required.

**To realize the profound impact of missing nominations:** the missing nomination of focal points by 34 States parties (17,9% of all participating parties) affecting 79 (41,7%) country reviews that cannot start for this reason.

### **Ongoing and possible future solutions (for consideration of the WG):**

- UNODC continues to follow-up with PMs / through field offices etc.
- States are encouraged to: ensure (the nomination of) active focal points which will ensure the reviews will actually move.

## Languages issues

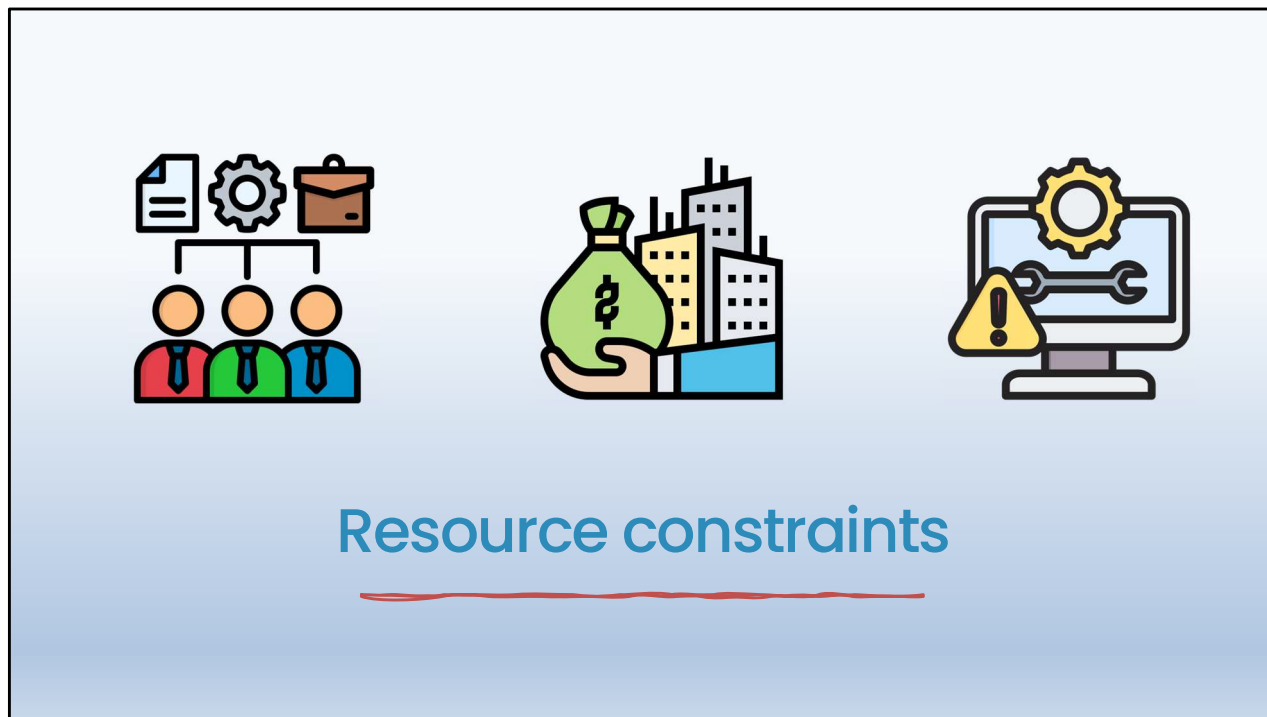


### STATES

- May wish to consider making provisions for the translation of their documentation and communications;
- May consider appointing, where possible, governmental experts and focal points with subject matter expertise and knowledge of foreign languages to enable reviews in multiple languages.

Challenges/ Need identified: language, interpretation and translation. Context: At the start of each country review, the parties concerned agree on the languages they will use to conduct the review, considering that they may use any one or two of the six working languages of the Mechanism, or, in exceptional circumstances, three languages (in line with procedures and rules). **The slide provides an overview of the decisions concerning the working language(s) chosen in country reviews.** Among the 60 active country review, 37 reviews in 1 language, 20 reviews in 2 languages, 2 reviews in 3 languages and 1 review is to be confirmed. The selection of languages caused delay in some reviews, and caused repetition of drawing of lots, which further delay the start of individual review.

As the functioning of the review mechanism mainly funded by voluntary contributions from Member States, no resources available for the Secretariat to support translation of documentation resulting from the review process (only has dedicated funding for the translation of the final outcome of the reviews (summary of observations) and general report. The Secretariat is exploring possibility on the use of machine translation with consideration of confidentiality and will share relevant information with States Parties if it may serve as a solution.



**Challenges identified:** In addition to the resources requirements on translation as mentioned just now, the lack of human resources at the RM team is also severe.

RM reviews 4 instruments instead of one.

Based on the composition of the review mechanism secretariat, on average each staff is overseeing and supporting approximately 42 country reviews in addition to their other tasks such as servicing meetings, fundraising, training, etc.. **It is foreseen that with the fully rolling out of the review process, there will be substantially increased workload and the current level of services from the secretariat cannot be ensured if no increased funds.**

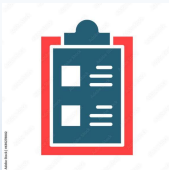




Part 3:

## Technical Assistance

## New technical assistance survey



Responses  
received from

**5 PARTIES**



Needs identified

1. Training Needs
2. Legislative Framework Support
3. Comprehensive Strategy Development

A survey to facilitate the identification of States parties' needs for assistance in view of their participation in the Review Mechanism was made available in REVMOD in July 2022 to focal points and governmental experts (as only FPs and GEs were required to fill out the survey, no NV was sent out, but rather an email reminder was sent to all FPs and GEs, with the PMs in copy, The Secretariat has reminded the PMs again by a Note Verbale dated on 12 January 2023). Responses were received from 5 Parties.

**1. Training Needs:** There is a strong need for training across various aspects of the UNTOC Review Mechanism, including its processes, the use of REVMOD, and filling the self-assessment questionnaires.

**2. Legislative Framework Support:** Countries are seeking support to enhance their understanding of and strengthen legislative frameworks related to combating transnational organized crime, as well as effective implementation of observations generated by the review process.

**3. Comprehensive Strategy Development:** Several countries recognize the need to formulate comprehensive strategies, policies, and plans to effectively combat transnational organized crime and are seeking assistance in this regard.

# Assistance provided by the Secretariat

**157  
countries**

157 countries assisted through technical and substantive assistance on the UNTOC Review Mechanism.

**2241  
officials**

2241 officials from 157 countries were assisted and trained on the UNTOC Review Mechanism and the details of the country review.

**124  
briefings**

124 briefings and training sessions held since 2020 in the six official languages.





Part 4:

## Matters brought to the attention of States parties

# Sharing experiences



## STATES

- May continue using the Working Group meetings as opportunities to share their national experience on the review of the 1st thematic cluster;
- May consider to support the participation of designated officials engaging in the country reviews in these meetings;
- May wish to consider to make their responses to the self-assessment questionnaire available to the general public through the “country profiles” pages on UNODC’s website (para 41 of the procedures and rules) – in addition to para 40, which restricts the availability of the questionnaire to other Focal Points and Experts

## Advancement to the next thematic cluster



*“For each group of States parties as set forth in paragraph 17, the advancement to the next review phase is conditional upon the completion of 70 per cent of the reviews foreseen at the beginning of the previous phase, unless the Conference decides otherwise” .*

Para 10 Procedures and rules



### STATES

COP may decide to launch the review of the next cluster before the threshold of completion within each group is reached.

**The review pace among country reviews within one review group is quite different.** There are country reviews still at the step of nomination of focal points and there are reviews at the step of preparation for the list of observations. What happens next for parties which will soon have completed their reviews?



**UNTOC**  
REVIEW  
MECHANISM



**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## Contact Us

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