



Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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Report on the meetings of the Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance held in Vienna from 23 to 27 May 2022

I. Introduction

Working Group on International Cooperation

1. In its decision 2/2, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime decided to establish an open-ended working group to hold substantive discussions on practical issues pertaining to extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for the purpose of confiscation. In its decision 3/2, the Conference decided that an open-ended working group on international cooperation would be a constant element of the Conference.

2. Since its first meeting, convened during the third session of the Conference of the Parties, which was held in Vienna from 9 to 18 October 2006, the Working Group on International Cooperation has been the subsidiary body of the Conference used as a forum for holding substantive discussions on practical issues pertaining to the effective implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on international cooperation in criminal matters, including extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for the purpose of confiscation.

Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance

3. The Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance was established pursuant to Conference of the Parties decision 2/6. In its decision 4/3, the Conference decided that the Working Group should be a constant element of the Conference.

4. In its resolution 7/1, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”, the Conference decided that the working groups established by it should continue to analyse, in a comprehensive manner, the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, making the best use of the information gathered, in full respect of the principle of multilingualism.

5. Furthermore, in its resolution 9/1 entitled “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 adopted the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. According to paragraph 44 of the procedures and rules, the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance shall consider the technical assistance needs identified during the review process and make recommendations to the Conference on how to assist States parties in their efforts to implement the Convention and the Protocols.

6. Finally, in its resolution 10/4, entitled “Celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and promoting its effective implementation”, the Conference requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), within its mandate, to continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States, upon request, to support their capacity to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, including through the following: (a) the provision of advisory services or ad hoc legislative assistance, including on the basis of existing model legislative provisions and any future updates to such provisions; (b) the provision of assistance in the development of national strategies to prevent and fight transnational organized crime; (c) the promotion of modern types of international judicial and law enforcement cooperation, such as the establishment of specialized judicial and law enforcement units and asset recovery networks, as well as those aimed at expediting procedures for extradition and mutual legal assistance; and (d) the updating, as necessary, of model instruments and publications, such as the guide on current practices in electronic surveillance in the investigation of serious and organized crime developed by UNODC in 2009, the model law on mutual assistance in criminal matters developed by the Office in 2007, and the *Manual on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance* published by the Office in 2012, also with a view, as appropriate, to including provisions and updated material on the use of special investigative techniques and the gathering of electronic evidence.

II. Recommendations

A. Working Group on International Cooperation

7. The Working Group on International Cooperation adopted the following recommendations for endorsement by the Conference:

(a) States parties are encouraged to have in place a solid legal basis for the implementation of article 17 of the Organized Crime Convention, through bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements and/or through national legislation that gives effect to such agreements or arrangements or can alternatively be used to facilitate transfers, and to adopt flexible approaches, in appropriate cases, to support a combined use of available legal tools;

(b) In the absence of a specific legal basis for the transfer of sentenced persons, and where authorized by domestic law, States are encouraged to consider making use of the principle of reciprocity as well as other available legal bases in prisoner transfer cases, when appropriate;

(c) States are encouraged to consider, where permitted by domestic law and any applicable treaty, any potential close links of sentenced persons to the administering State as a key requirement of their transfer, and as an alternative to the requirement of their nationality, with a view to facilitating their social reintegration and rehabilitation;

(d) States are encouraged to take into account law enforcement interests as well as the best prospects for rehabilitation when determining whether or not to grant a request for the transfer of a sentenced person;

(e) States are encouraged to consider establishing a minimum remaining period of a sentence to be served as a requirement for carrying out transfers of sentenced persons in order to facilitate the social rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners and make best use of available resources in this field;

(f) States are encouraged to seek technical assistance pertaining to transfers of sentenced persons and, in this regard, UNODC is encouraged to facilitate, upon request, training activities and to enhance training for domestic authorities or personnel involved in the field of transfer of sentenced persons, including, as appropriate, prosecutors, judges, prison officials, consular officials and lawyers;

(g) States are encouraged to strengthen communication and coordination, including by promoting direct contacts between competent authorities as a way to streamline the process of transfer of sentenced persons;

(h) States are encouraged to enhance the practice of consultations prior to the actual transfer of sentenced persons on such issues as conditional release, duration of procedures, possibilities of social reintegration and rehabilitation, detention conditions and medical treatment and, during the process of transfer, on such issues as dual criminality, partial recognition of sentences and adaptation of punishment, taking into account, as appropriate, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules);

(i) States are encouraged to utilize, as feasible, software that makes it possible to identify prisoners who are eligible for transfer at an early stage;

(j) States are encouraged to actively promote cooperation in the field of transfer of sentenced persons and to participate in relevant networks or organizations;

(k) States parties having received requests from other States parties for the transfer of a prisoner who has consented to the transfer are encouraged to give due consideration to the request and to provide the requesting State with a timely response as to whether the request is granted or not.

B. Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance

8. The Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance adopted the following recommendations, for endorsement by the Conference:

Updating the legislative records of States parties in preparation for the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

(a) States that have not yet done so should update their legislative records in the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC), including for purposes of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

(b) UNODC could develop a dissemination plan to raise awareness of the usefulness of SHERLOC;

(c) States may wish to consider inviting UNODC to assist in the capacity-building activities of national judicial institutions, including by providing training on the use of SHERLOC as a source of information on domestic legislation and jurisprudence from various jurisdictions;

(d) States may wish to consider developing, publishing and providing to the Secretariat for publication on SHERLOC explanatory materials on legislation, such as explanatory memorandums developed during the introduction of the legislation and summarized legislative manuals or briefs that consolidate the relevant provisions of all applicable national legislation on organized crime;

(e) UNODC should consider expanding SHERLOC to include information on police-to-police cooperation;

(f) UNODC should continue to gather, disseminate and analyse information, without prejudice to the rules and procedures of the Implementation Review Mechanism, on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, with a focus on successful practices and the difficulties encountered by States in that regard, and to develop technical assistance tools on the basis of the information gathered;

(g) States may wish to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the further development and maintenance of SHERLOC to promote the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and strengthen the exchange of lessons learned and challenges in the implementation of those instruments;

Application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in domestic jurisprudence

(h) In order to facilitate law enforcement and judicial cooperation, States should implement the Organized Crime Convention in a comprehensive and effective manner. In so doing, States may wish to request technical assistance from UNODC or from each other;

(i) States should consider strengthening the ability of law enforcement and criminal justice officers to conduct investigations and prosecutions of cases involving organized criminal groups, and to cooperate with international and regional counterparts;

(j) In implementing the provisions of article 6 of the Organized Crime Convention, States are encouraged to consider reviewing their national legislation so as to facilitate efforts to address practical elements of criminalization of the laundering of proceeds of crime, including the requisite element of mens rea;

(k) States should consider requesting or providing training on mutual legal assistance and other forms of international cooperation in obtaining evidence and witness testimonies, including on predicate offences to money-laundering. Such assistance should at a minimum cover the relevant provisions of the Organized Crime Convention and include the obtaining of evidence, the preservation of stored computer data and the real-time collection of traffic data, if permitted under the basic principles of the domestic legal system;

(l) States should consider allocating sufficient resources, as feasible, to manage cases involving organized criminal groups in a streamlined and timely manner, to facilitate successful prosecution;

(m) In cases involving organized criminal groups, in particular complex cases involving transnational organized crime, States should consider developing prosecution plans as early as possible. Such plans could take into consideration the management of evidential and other issues, including procedures to address anticipated challenges;

(n) States should consider developing practical operating procedures in consultation with court administrations and others to facilitate the effective management of cases involving organized criminal groups, as such cases may represent security and other logistical challenges. States may wish to include witness protection measures in such procedures;

(o) States that have not yet done so should consider making public the decisions and opinions of their courts and tribunals concerning organized crime, in accordance with domestic legislation, in order to further the aims of the Convention;

Effective strategies to prevent and combat organized crime, including mainstreaming of gender and human rights

(p) States parties are called upon to ensure that their national legislation aligns with the Organized Crime Convention and applicable international human rights obligations, including provisions related to law enforcement cooperation, joint investigations, special investigative techniques, mutual legal assistance, extradition and exchange of information, with a view to enhancing international cooperation in preventing and combating organized crime; and, if required, to request technical assistance for those purposes;

(q) States are encouraged to consider developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating comprehensive and evidence-based whole-of-government policies and strategies against organized crime, formulated through a whole-of-society approach that includes all relevant stakeholders, such as academia and civil society;

(r) In developing their national policies and strategies, States parties are encouraged to consider using the four pillars highlighted in the “Organized crime strategy toolkit for developing high-impact strategies”, namely: (a) ensuring the inclusion of measures focused on prevention of organized crime; (b) pursuing organized criminal groups and their illicit activities; (c) protecting the most vulnerable; and (d) promoting partnerships and cooperation at all levels;

(s) States should consider adopting national policies and mechanisms that ensure adequate protection of and assistance to victims and witnesses of organized crime, consistent with the provisions of the Convention and applicable international human rights obligations;

(t) States should endeavour to mainstream gender and human rights into their legislation, policies, programmes and other initiatives against organized crime in order to implement the Convention and other international commitments, such as Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 26/3, in a comprehensive manner and thus more effectively prevent and combat organized crime;

(u) States should consider implementing an analytical process to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective and human rights that provides a method for assessing any inequalities, including possible systemic factors, as well as the influence of all relevant factors, in accordance with national legislation on how individuals experience policies, programmes and other initiatives to prevent and combat organized crime, in order to subsequently adapt them and improve the effectiveness of their response to organized crime;

(v) States should encourage the wider participation of women across their criminal justice systems and train their criminal justice practitioners to conduct assessments of gender and human rights factors and needs and respond in a gender-sensitive and human rights-compliant manner when preventing or combating organized crime, including protecting and assisting victims and witnesses;

(w) States should consider collecting quantitative and qualitative data, disaggregated by age, gender and other relevant factors, and to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective into their research and analysis of organized crime, so as to contribute to addressing the knowledge gap, including through building on the findings of relevant publications in this field and ensuring that criminal justice policies and programmes fully take into account all available evidence;

(x) Subject to the availability of resources, UNODC should continue to provide technical assistance to States, including on legislation and strategy development, to prevent and combat organized crime and continue to collect, analyse and disseminate information related to responses to and the nature of organized crime, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention.

C. Joint thematic discussion on the application of the Organized Crime Convention for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment

9. The Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance adopted the following recommendations for endorsement by the Conference:

(a) States parties are encouraged to consider making crimes that affect the environment, in appropriate cases, serious crimes, in accordance with their national legislation, as defined in article 2, paragraph (b), of the Organized Crime Convention in order to facilitate international cooperation;

(b) States parties are encouraged to consider, in accordance with their national legislation, in appropriate cases, treating crimes that affect the environment as predicate offences for money-laundering purposes and to enhance financial investigations in order to detect the involvement of organized criminal groups and seize and confiscate assets derived from those crimes;

(c) States parties should enhance international cooperation and share appropriate information on the possible nexus between transnational organized crimes that affect the environment and other forms of organized crime;

(d) States parties should prevent and combat corruption as an enabler of crimes that affect the environment, and strengthen anti-corruption measures by making best use of the Organized Crime Convention and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including when organized criminal groups are involved;

(e) States parties are encouraged to make use of the provisions contained in the Organized Crime Convention with a view to enhancing international cooperation to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment, in particular those related to law enforcement cooperation and joint investigations, international cooperation for purposes of confiscation, extradition and mutual legal assistance; in doing so, States parties are encouraged to make further use of technology, where feasible, and allow, for example, the submission of mutual legal assistance requests through electronic means;

(f) States parties are encouraged to address challenges posed by the double criminality principle to facilitate international cooperation in cases related to crimes that affect the environment by assessing whether the conduct underlying the offence for which assistance is sought is a criminal offence under the laws of both the requesting and the requested State, irrespective of whether such laws place the offence within the same category of crimes or denominate the offence using the same terminology;

(g) UNODC should continue to provide, upon request, technical assistance and capacity-building to States parties to support their efforts in effectively implementing the Organized Crime Convention to prevent and combat transnational organized crimes that affect the environment;

(h) UNODC should continue collecting data, including legislation and case law through its SHERLOC knowledge management portal, on various forms of crimes that affect the environment, and conducting research on the possible nexus between crimes that affect the environment and other forms of organized crime;

(i) States parties are invited to strengthen their cooperation with international and regional organizations, and are encouraged, where appropriate, in accordance with national legislation, to do so with other relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, individuals and groups outside the public sector, in preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment and in raising awareness of these crimes, consistent with article 31 of the Organized Crime Convention;

(j) States parties are invited to take effective measures that could fill existing gaps and loopholes in current practices to combat trafficking in wildlife, including considering, where consistent with fundamental principles of their domestic law, the impact of trafficking in wildlife in countries of origin, transit and destination;

(k) States parties are encouraged to leverage technology and research solutions, including to enhance the use of online tools, to improve investigations and prosecutions in combating crimes that affect the environment;

(l) Consistent with Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 31/1, entitled “Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife”, States are invited to provide UNODC with, inter alia, their views on possible responses including the potential of an additional protocol to the Organized Crime Convention, to address any gaps that may exist in the current international legal framework to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife.

D. Matters pertaining to the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

10. The Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance adopted the following recommendations for endorsement by the Conference:

(a) Parties under review are encouraged to share their progress in the country reviews with the Conference of the Parties at its future sessions in order to align the advancement of the reviews with the timetable contained in the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, annexed to Conference resolution 9/1, and the guidelines for conducting the country reviews, annexed to Conference resolution 10/1;

(b) UNODC is encouraged to organize informal meetings, on the margins of the meetings of the working groups of the Conference of the Parties, for interested parties to share their experiences in conducting the country reviews.

III. Summary of deliberations

11. The following summary of deliberations was prepared by the secretariat after the meetings, in close coordination with the Chair. This summary of deliberations was not subject to negotiation and adoption during the meetings; rather, it is a summary by the Chair.

A. Working Group on International Cooperation

1. Transfer of sentenced persons (article 17 of the Organized Crime Convention)

12. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 23 May 2022, the Working Group on International Cooperation considered its agenda item 2, entitled “Transfer of sentenced persons (article 17 of the Organized Crime Convention)”. With the Chair presiding, the discussion on the agenda item was facilitated by the following panellists: Raluca Simion (Romania), Lisa Gezelius (Sweden), Abdelalil Khamuss (Morocco) and Christopher Smith (United States of America). A representative of the secretariat delivered an introductory statement.

13. The panellist from Romania referred to the legal bases used by her country in support of the transfer of sentenced persons, which included domestic legislation on international judicial cooperation in criminal matters; Council of the European Union framework decision 2008/909/JHA, on the application of the principle of mutual

recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union; multilateral treaties, including the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the Convention against Corruption and the Organized Crime Convention; the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and its Additional Protocol; and applicable bilateral treaties. It was noted that transfers of sentenced persons could also be carried out on the basis of international courtesy and assurances of reciprocity.

14. The same panellist made specific reference to the domestic procedure used in her country for such transfers, which involved both administrative and judicial processes. She highlighted the applicable requirements for transfer, which included the existence of a final judgment; a remaining sentence of, in most cases, six months to be served; the fulfilment of the requirement of dual criminality; the links of the sentenced person to the administering State; the consent of the sentenced person, subject to the exceptions provided for in the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and Council of the European Union framework decision 2008/909/JHA; human rights considerations; and the enforcement of the sentence, with both continued enforcement and conversion of the sentence being possible.

15. The same panellist identified the following as the most common challenges in the field: incomplete documentation; insufficient identification data; problems arising from lack of dual criminality or incompatible substantive criminal law provisions; and insufficient links of the sentenced person to the administering State. In terms of best practice, she stressed the significance of consultations prior to the start of the transfer and during the judicial stage of the process.

16. The panellist from Sweden presented the legal conditions for transfers of sentenced persons in Sweden, making reference to the relevant legal bases (a Nordic convention of 1963; Council of the European Union framework decision 2008/909/JHA; and the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and its Additional Protocol). She referred to criteria used in assessing the social rehabilitation of the sentenced person, which included citizenship, place of residence, family circumstances, working conditions and consent of the person.

17. The same panellist highlighted the differences in cases of transfer of sentenced persons involving Nordic countries, those involving States members of the European Union and those involving third countries. She noted that, in relation to transfers involving Nordic countries and States members of the European Union, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service was the competent authority for the recognition of judgment and execution of the sentence. In relation to transfers outside the European Union, the Ministry of Justice made contact with the other State. She mentioned that, in Nordic countries and the European Union, sentenced persons were quite often transferred against their will; however, outside the European Union, the consent of the sentenced person and the other State was often required for a transfer to take place. She noted that, within the European Union, the principle of mutual recognition and mutual trust was applied, thus making cooperation easier.

18. In terms of the most common challenges, the same panellist identified the following: (a) the fact that the transfer of sentenced persons was often a time-consuming process, which made it difficult to transfer prisoners with shorter sentences; (b) the substandard prison conditions that could be an obstacle to transfer, given the need to respect the rights of sentenced persons; and (c) the lack of secure digital communication channels. She also made the following recommendations: (a) providing for direct contact between competent authorities to streamline the procedure of transfer; (b) implementing and using software solutions to identify sentenced persons eligible for a transfer at an early stage; (c) providing training for lawyers, prosecutors and judges; and (d) increasing collaboration with UNODC, the European Judicial Network and the European Organization of Prison and Correctional Services.

19. The panellist from the United States highlighted the importance of treaty-based mechanisms for the transfer of sentenced persons, making reference to bilateral agreements, specifying that some of them did not apply to immigration, political or military offences, as well as multilateral instruments such as the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and the Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad. He mentioned that the multilateral instruments were mostly used by authorities in the United States as only 11 of the 84 States parties to the relevant instruments had bilateral agreements with the United States.

20. The same panellist highlighted that, in general, reasons to support the transfer of sentenced persons included the social reintegration and rehabilitation of sentenced persons and their family circumstances. He underscored that the transfer of sentenced persons required the existence of conviction and the exhaustion of appeals, as well as a remaining period of years to be served as a sentence.

21. The same panellist referred to the consent of both the administering and the sentencing States, as well as the sentenced person, as a requirement for the transfer. Regarding links to the administering State, he underscored that the sentenced person should be a national of that State, and that dual nationals were not excluded from the process.

22. The same panellist referred to a series of law enforcement considerations within the framework of the transfer of sentenced persons, including the seriousness of offences involved; other pending charges against the sentenced person; whether the sentenced person was also needed as a witness; and humanitarian and health concerns. He referred to the discrepancy between sentences in cases where the administering State was to enforce the sentence or convert the sentence under its domestic law and noted that such discrepancy could result in a lesser sentence, without that being an obstacle to the transfer, except in extremely serious cases. Further, the administering State should accept the factual findings of the sentencing State and could not substitute a fine for imprisonment. The panellist underscored that a prisoner could not be incarcerated for a longer period than the full term of the transferred sentence.

23. The same panellist highlighted the impact of transfers of sentenced persons in terms of the sentencing State losing the power to enforce the sentence, but retaining the power to grant commutation or pardon. He noted that the administering State was responsible for enforcing the sentence and that the laws and procedures of that State regulated how the sentence was to be administered, including in terms of prison credits, probation and parole.

24. The panellist from Morocco presented a brief overview of the legal framework regulating the transfer of sentenced persons in his country. He underlined that the Ministry of Justice was the competent authority in the field of transfer of sentenced persons for examining relevant requests and determining whether to grant them or not. The Ministry was also the competent authority for a wide range of administrative decisions, including on the enforcement of financial and civil sanctions in relation to foreign prisoners. He underlined that the prison authorities were instrumental in preparing relevant files and requests. He mentioned that other institutions such as diplomatic authorities and security forces played an equally important role in preparing supporting files and documents, including for the transfer of nationals from abroad to Morocco and vice versa. Moreover, he highlighted the use of diplomatic channels for communication purposes, coupled with the practice of secure email services during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

25. The same panellist noted that determining whether to grant relevant requests was done in accordance with applicable bilateral or multilateral agreements. He underlined that his country was seeking to increase the number of bilateral agreements and arrangements with other Member States, as bilateral agreements allowed the national authorities to implement relevant procedures smoothly. He underscored that a new draft law related to the transfer of sentenced persons was being prepared and, until its enactment, the principle of reciprocity would be used.

26. In the ensuing discussion, the panellists provided additional information to participants in response to their questions and comments on specific challenges and examples of good practices. Furthermore, a number of speakers referred to national approaches to carrying out transfers of sentenced persons, as well as relevant legal frameworks, including domestic laws and applicable treaties. Some speakers mentioned challenges encountered in the field, including insufficient documentation and the short period of the sentence remaining to be served.

27. The different approaches in legal systems to dealing with the consent of sentenced persons for their transfer were highlighted, together with the issue of examining any potential close links of sentenced persons to the administering State as a key requirement of their transfer, and as an alternative to the requirement of their nationality, with a view to facilitating their social reintegration and rehabilitation.

28. The importance of the provision of assurances when handling legal and practical aspects of the transfer of sentenced persons was underlined. It was noted that, although the transfer of sentenced persons and extradition were distinct processes in terms of, *inter alia*, their purposes, some countries had established a practice to agree on the extradition of their nationals on the condition that, upon conviction, they would be transferred back to their country of origin to serve the sentence.

29. It was underscored that the online availability of the legal requirements of the cooperating States for the transfer of sentenced persons could be a practical solution to increase awareness and prevent delays and shortcomings in the process.

B. Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance

1. Effective strategies to prevent and combat organized crime, including mainstreaming of gender and human rights

30. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 25 May, the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance considered the agenda item entitled “Effective strategies to prevent and combat organized crime, including mainstreaming of gender and human rights” as agenda item 3. With the Chair presiding, the discussion was led by the following panellists: Paul Thornton (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Aka Agnimel (Côte d’Ivoire), Kawtar Lachab (Morocco), Cecilia Farfán Méndez (Mexico) and Marisa Dowswell (Canada).

31. The panellist from the United Kingdom stressed the importance of whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches to preventing and countering organized crime. He outlined the framework of his country’s Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. The panellist cautioned against the overprioritization of punitive approaches, stressing that endemic problems could not be resolved solely through law enforcement-centred responses. He highlighted the importance of regional and international cooperation in preventing and countering organized crime, referring to regional strategies of his country, as well as to collaboration with key international partners, including UNODC for the development and dissemination of the Organized Crime Strategy Toolkit.

32. The panellist from Côte d’Ivoire presented his country’s national efforts to prevent and counter organized crime, focusing on the integration of international normative frameworks, including the Organized Crime Convention, into the national legislative system, as well as on national-level cooperation between relevant institutions. He highlighted the critical role of central coordination bodies in ensuring the effectiveness of such cooperation and underscored the importance of international exchange of knowledge and best practices in preventing and countering organized crime.

33. The panellist from Morocco focused on steps undertaken at the national level to integrate gender and human rights considerations into normative responses to organized crime. She referred to legislative initiatives, including constitutional amendments, seeking to ensure comprehensive responses to organized crime, as well

as serve as impetus for criminal justice reforms. The panellist highlighted as best practices the existence of prevention frameworks targeted at vulnerable populations, the creation of robust victim-protection mechanisms and the adoption of a multisector response to organized crime, including through the engagement of civil society actors in policymaking and the implementation of measures to prevent and counter organized crime.

34. The panellist from Mexico focused on the gender dimensions of responses to organized crime, examining them in conjunction with the issue paper entitled *Organized Crime and Gender: Issues Relating to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*. She highlighted that the integration of gender in legislation, policies and strategies was paramount to avoid ineffective and harmful normative responses leading to the continuation of differential treatment of women and men in society and within criminal justice systems, as well as potential secondary victimization and revictimization. She also highlighted that the composition of the workforce of the criminal justice system had an impact on the treatment of individuals in contact with the system, such as accused persons, prisoners, witnesses and victims, and stressed that criminal justice institutions could not provide equal and equitable responses if the composition of the workforce was not representative of the broader population. Emphasis was given to the need to collect and disseminate gender statistics, including sex-disaggregated data.

35. The panellist from Canada focused on the intersectional gender-based approach employed in her country to ensure that government initiatives were responsive, inclusive and reflective of diverse experiences and realities. She emphasized that gender and diversity analysis needed to go beyond solely gender-based characteristics to consider all relevant identity factors, as well as their potential overlap that might create barriers or systemic inequities for some people or privileges for others. She highlighted that identity factors could influence the likelihood that a person may be a victim, a perpetrator, or both, in the context of organized crime. She dissected the practical application of a gender-based approach to policymaking and presented a series of questions seeking to evaluate the varying impact of normative measures on various population groups.

36. Representatives of the secretariat delivered two presentations. The first was on the work undertaken by the Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention: from Theory to Practice to support the development of strategies, policies and plans of action to prevent and counter organized crime, as well as mainstream gender and human rights considerations into normative responses to organized crime (the Organized Crime Strategy Toolkit and the issue papers *The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and International Human Rights Law* and *Organized Crime and Gender: Issues Relating to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*). The second was on the new e-learning module on gender and organized crime developed by UNODC and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

37. After the presentations, the panellists exchanged additional information with participants in response to their questions and comments on specific challenges and examples of good practices. Some speakers also shared information on their countries' strategic frameworks to prevent and counter organized crime, as well as on the mainstreaming of gender and human rights dimensions in the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention.

38. Many speakers underscored the importance of cooperation on the national, regional and international levels for the successful implementation of strategies against organized crime. Whole-of-government responses, multilateral networks and cooperation with relevant international organizations, such as UNODC, were highlighted as best practices. Several speakers referred to the important role played by civil society, including academia and non-governmental organizations, in the conceptualization and implementation of responses to organized crime.

39. Many speakers highlighted the importance of considering the gender dimensions of organized crime and responses thereto, with several of them referring to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 26/3, on mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, and underscoring the importance of the UNODC issue paper entitled *Organized Crime and Gender: Issues Relating to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* for the implementation of that resolution.

40. Several speakers provided examples of policies that could be used to mainstream gender dimensions into responses to organized crime. Among those mentioned were the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data on organized crime; the bolstering of gender representation in the criminal justice system and at all levels of decision-making on organized crime-related matters; the provisions of training on gender awareness for law enforcement units; and the organization of activities aimed at preventing and curbing violence against vulnerable groups, including LGBTQIA+ persons. A few speakers also highlighted that normative measures that disregarded gender considerations might be not only inefficient, but even counterproductive.

41. A few speakers highlighted the importance of mainstreaming rule of law and human rights considerations into responses to organized crime. Furthermore, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on responses to organized crime was underscored, including in relation to the human rights dimensions of such responses.

2. Finalization and adoption of the draft recommendations resulting from the twelfth meeting of the Working Group (9 and 10 July 2020)

42. The Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance continued and concluded the discussion that it had started at its twelfth meeting, in 2020, with the aim of adopting recommendations and submitting them to the Conference of the Parties for final endorsement at its eleventh session. The recommendations were on the following two substantive agenda items: “Updating the legislative records of States parties in preparation for the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”; and “Application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in domestic jurisprudence”. The adopted recommendations are listed in section II, paragraphs 8 (a)–(o), of the present report.

C. Joint items of the Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance

1. The application of the Organized Crime Convention for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment (agenda item 3, Working Group on International Cooperation; and agenda item 2, Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance)

43. At their 3rd and 4th meetings, on 24 May, the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance and the Working Group on International Cooperation considered the joint agenda item entitled “The application of the Organized Crime Convention for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment”.

44. At the opening of the discussion on the item, the Chair gave the floor to Hikihara Takeshi, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations (Vienna), in his capacity as the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-first session. Mr. Hikihara gave a briefing to the working groups on the most salient points of his summary on the expert discussions on crimes that affect the environment held by the Commission during its intersessional period, from 14 to 16 February 2022. The aim of the briefing was to facilitate synergies and

complementarities between the processes led by the Conference of the Parties and the Commission on the issue.

45. In highlighting the key outcomes from the expert discussions, Mr. Hikihara focused on the main thematic pillars of preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment and strengthening international cooperation. He stressed that crimes that affect the environment went beyond borders and often involved transnational organized criminal groups. Therefore, the use of the Organized Crime Convention was one of the most effective ways to deal with such crimes. In that regard, he insisted on the need for adequate legislation to treat related offences, in appropriate cases, as serious crimes.

46. With the Chair presiding, the discussion was led by the following panellists: Frances Craigie (South Africa), Mouhcine Ramdani (Morocco) and John Thompson (United States). Three presentations were delivered by representatives of the secretariat.

47. The panellist from South Africa focused on her country's integrated approach to tackling crimes that affect the environment. She presented the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure, which established joint teams composed of various national stakeholders, as well as specific priority committees working on crimes that affect the environment, such as marine and ocean crime, illegal mining and wildlife trafficking. She also mentioned the National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking and its cross-cutting approach to tackling such crimes.

48. The same panellist mentioned that increasing attention was being paid to financial and money-laundering investigations. The expert working group on illegal wildlife trade, formed under the Anti-Money Laundering Integrated Task Force, was an integrated public-private partnership that linked the banking sector, the financial intelligence sector and law enforcement agencies. The panellist noted that, although pollution and waste crime were less of a focus in her country, they deserved further attention, in particular in terms of their connection to other crimes.

49. The panellist from Morocco presented the ways in which the Organized Crime Convention was implemented at the national level to strengthen international cooperation to combat crimes that affect the environment. He mentioned that his country had adhered to numerous international instruments related to the protection of environment and also cooperated at the bilateral level, being party to over 70 agreements on extradition, mutual legal assistance and the transfer of prisoners.

50. The same panellist referred to his country's legal framework, including the Constitution, as amended in 2011, which contained a provision on the need to protect the environment; the law pertaining to the protection of the environment; and other specific laws on air pollution, disposal and management of waste and coastal protection. Updated domestic legislation provided for international cooperation mechanisms, videoconferencing and undercover operations to infiltrate organized criminal groups, understand their *modi operandi* and acquire the necessary evidence.

51. The same panellist referred to national working groups aimed at addressing crimes on the high seas. Morocco had also established an agency to manage confiscated proceeds of crimes and coordinate with other countries in countering cross-border crimes that affect the environment.

52. The panellist from the United States highlighted inter-agency work in his country to leverage scientific and legal expertise among law enforcement and criminal justice officers to investigate and prosecute crimes that affect the environment. It was noted that using provisions of laws on money-laundering, conspiracy, corruption or false statements could be an effective way to prosecute crimes that affect the environment.

53. The same panellist referred to the Lacey Act, which made it a crime to trade wildlife, fish and plants that had been illegally taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of an underlying law in the United States or a foreign country. He noted

that the United States had various anti-corruption and anti-money-laundering sanctions in place, as well as visa restrictions to disrupt criminal networks that were involved in those crimes. Moreover, the United States was heavily engaged in working with a wide range of stakeholders globally, including civil society, the private sector (including the banking and transport sectors), international organizations and local communities, to combat related crimes.

54. The same panellist further referred to “nature crimes” as a subset of crimes that affect the environment, which included wildlife and timber trafficking, illegal mining and trafficking in gemstones, metals and minerals. He noted that the United States recognized crimes that affect the environment as a security threat and prioritized addressing illegal logging and associated trade, illegal mining and artisanal small-scale gold mining. Addressing trafficking in waste and plastic and pollution-related crime was also mentioned.

55. Representatives of the secretariat delivered presentations on the following: (a) the legislative guides that UNODC had developed pursuant to Conference resolution 10/6, intended to support States in enacting or strengthening domestic legislation on crimes that affect the environment; (b) ongoing research activities on crimes that affect the environment; and (c) the work of the Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment and Climate.

56. After the presentations, the panellists exchanged additional information with participants in response to their questions and comments on specific challenges and examples of good practices. Some speakers also shared information on pertinent laws in their countries.

57. Several speakers described the challenges faced when amending national legislation. It was noted that different solutions in dealing with crimes that affect the environment needed to be considered, as some may not be compatible with the definition of “serious crime” contained in article 2 (b) of the Organized Crime Convention.

58. Most speakers recognized the importance of joint and concerted efforts when dealing with crimes that affect the environment, especially when considering those crimes as predicate offences. Several speakers highlighted the significance of addressing issues of confiscation, seizure and return of proceeds derived from crimes that affect the environment. It was also noted that those issues might have complex dimensions and, in some cases, in particular in relation to wildlife, the return of assets to the country of origin was not a straightforward process or solution.

59. Several speakers welcomed Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 31/1, as well as a potential additional protocol to the Organized Crime Convention to address any gaps that might exist in the current international legal framework to prevent and combat trafficking in wildlife.

2. Matters pertaining to the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (agenda item 4, Working Group on International Cooperation; and agenda item 5, Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance)

60. A representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the progress and status of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols, sharing updates and data on the reviews and addressing challenges encountered so far in the review process. The secretariat had offered bilateral briefings on the Mechanism on the margins of the meetings of the working groups to increase awareness of the participants about their countries’ involvement in the review process. In that regard, some speakers expressed thanks for the secretariat’s efforts in supporting the review process.

61. Some speakers highlighted the engagement of civil society in the review process of the Organized Crime Convention and expressed their support for achieving a fruitful outcome of such engagement.

62. Several speakers expressed concern about delays in the advancing of the first phase of the review and shared views on how relevant parties to the Convention could make progress in order to catch up with the indicative timetable of the review phase. Some speakers called for the exploration of ways to speed up the nomination of focal points and governmental experts by States parties in the process through, for example, additional meetings on the margins of relevant intergovernmental meetings to allow States parties to exchange experiences in conducting the country reviews and avail themselves of any possible support that the secretariat could offer.

63. Some speakers highlighted the multilingual nature of the secure module of SHERLOC that hosted the majority of the country review process, known as “RevMod”. In that regard, they mentioned the challenges related to multiple languages in the reviews, in particular when national officials had limited knowledge of other languages. The necessity of identifying budgets for translation was therefore underscored.

64. The establishment of a committee working at the national level on issues relating to the review process was mentioned as a good practice at the national level. As noted in the example brought to the attention of the working groups, such committees comprised national competent authorities as well as representatives from civil society, minority groups and representatives from the regional level and allowed for active participation in the review process.

65. The provision of information on the regular budget share of the funding for the Implementation Review Mechanism, as well as voluntary contributions, was requested. A representative of the secretariat provided an explanation on the use of funding in line with the mandates stipulated in the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism. Moreover, it was announced that, at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties, there would be an agenda item on the financial status of the Mechanism and a background paper on the subject would be made available.

3. Other matters (agenda item 5, Working Group on International Cooperation; and agenda item 6, Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance)

66. Under this agenda item, representatives of the secretariat delivered presentations on the development of UNODC tools in the field of international cooperation in criminal matters, including: a digest of cases involving the Organized Crime Convention as a legal basis for international cooperation in criminal matters; the *Digest on Cyber-Organized Crime*; the second edition of the *Model Legislative Provisions against Organized Crime*; the revised Model Law on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, with up-to-date provisions on electronic evidence and the use of special investigative techniques; the updated versions of the directory of competent national authorities; and an update on the content of the SHERLOC knowledge management portal. On the margins of the meetings of the working groups, online consultations on SHERLOC were offered to participants wishing to find out more about the portal or obtain assistance from the secretariat in reviewing the legislative or other records of their countries in the portal.

67. One speaker delivered a presentation on the mandate, functions and responsibilities of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office, which became operational on 1 June 2021. He made specific reference to Council of the European Union regulation No. 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017, implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office. He underscored that the Office operated as a fully independent single office across the 22 participating European Union countries. The Office was responsible for investigating, prosecuting and bringing to justice criminal offences including all types

of fraud, corruption, organized crime, smuggling of goods and money-laundering involving the financial interests of the European Union. The speaker presented the structure of the Office, which had two levels: (a) the central level; and (b) the decentralized (national) level. While acknowledging the complexities associated with the designation by the European Union of the Office as a central authority under the Organized Crime Convention, he underlined that the Office offered an innovative cooperation tool to step up common efforts to effectively combat transnational organized crime, also with the aim of benefiting from mutual legal assistance arrangements with third countries and international organizations.

IV. Organization of the meetings

A. Duration of the meetings

68. As agreed by the extended Bureau of the Conference of the Parties by means of a silence procedure on 29 March 2022, the meetings of both the Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance were held in a hybrid format, with a restricted number of participants present in the meeting room, and all other participants connected online using an interpretation platform procured by the United Nations.

69. The meetings were held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m. The meeting schedule sought to accommodate the different time zones of the participants of the working groups, while respecting and staying within the time frame usually set for the meetings. The relevant information about the meeting times was made available on the respective web pages of the working groups.

70. The Working Group on International Cooperation met from 23 to 27 May 2022, holding a total of six meetings. The meetings were chaired by Thomas Burrows (United States).

71. The Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance met from 23 to 27 May 2022, holding a total of eight meetings. The meetings were also chaired by Mr. Burrows (United States).

B. Statements

72. Under agenda item 2 of the Working Group on International Cooperation, statements were made by representatives of the following States parties to the Convention: Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, Philippines and United States. A representative of the European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Convention, also made a statement. A representative of the secretariat delivered an introductory statement.

73. Under the joint agenda item entitled “The application of the Organized Crime Convention for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment”, statements were made by representatives of the following States parties to the Convention: Angola, Argentina, Brazil, China, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Russian Federation, South Africa and United States. A representative of the European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Convention, also made a statement. The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran also made a statement. Representatives of the secretariat gave presentations.

74. Under agenda item 3 of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance, statements were made by representatives of the following States parties to the Convention: Brazil, Canada, China, Honduras, Mexico, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Representatives of the secretariat gave presentations.

75. Under agenda item 4 of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance, statements were made by representatives of the following States parties to the Convention: China, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Russian Federation, Sudan, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran also made a statement.

76. Under the agenda item entitled “Matters pertaining to the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”, statements were made by representatives of the following States parties to the Convention: Canada, China, Colombia, Mexico, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). A representative of the secretariat delivered a presentation.

77. Representatives of the secretariat delivered presentations under the joint agenda item entitled “Other matters”.

78. Under the agenda item on the adoption of the joint report, statements were made by representatives of the following States parties to the Convention: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, France, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Türkiye, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran also made a statement.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

79. At their 1st meeting, on 23 May 2022, the working groups discussed the proposed organization of work for their meetings. In that context, reference was made to the organization of work for the meetings that had been prepared by the secretariat and approved by the extended Bureau of the Conference by silence procedure on 29 March 2022.

80. During the opening session, one speaker was of the view that the agenda item entitled “Matters pertaining to the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto” should not be placed only on the agenda of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance, but should be considered as a joint agenda item of both working groups. The speaker underlined that, regardless of the progressive nature of the reviews, as indicated in paragraphs 9 and 12 of the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Implementation Review Mechanism, and the fact that issues of international cooperation would be discussed at a later stage of the review process, interconnections between international cooperation and criminalization and jurisdiction aspects were currently dealt with in the ongoing reviews.

81. Against that background, and as no further comments were made, the working groups adopted their agendas, as amended, as follows:

Working Group on International Cooperation

1. Organizational matters (*joint item*):
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Transfer of sentenced persons (article 17 of the Organized Crime Convention).
3. The application of the Organized Crime Convention for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment (*joint item*).

4. Matters pertaining to the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (*joint item*).
5. Other matters (*joint item*).
6. Adoption of the joint report (*joint item*).

Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance

1. Organizational matters (*joint item*):
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. The application of the Organized Crime Convention for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment (*joint item*).
3. Effective strategies to prevent and combat organized crime, including mainstreaming of gender and human rights.
4. Finalization and adoption of the draft recommendations resulting from the twelfth meeting of the Working Group (9 and 10 July 2020).
5. Matters pertaining to the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (*joint item*).
6. Other matters (*joint item*).
7. Adoption of the joint report (*joint item*).

D. Attendance

82. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting, including online owing to the specific format of the meeting in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Zimbabwe.

83. The European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Convention, was represented at the meeting.

84. The Islamic Republic of Iran, a signatory State to the Convention, was represented by observers.

85. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers, including online owing to the specific format of the meeting in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic: Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors, Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network, Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, Commonwealth of Independent States, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Council of Europe, European

Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), Integrative Internal Security Governance and International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

E. Documentation

Working Group on International Cooperation

86. The Working Group on International Cooperation had before it the following:

(a) Provisional agenda and annotations ([CTOC/COP/WG.2/2022/1–CTOC/COP/WG.3/2022/1](#));

(b) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the transfer of sentenced persons (article 17 of the Organized Crime Convention) ([CTOC/COP/WG.3/2022/2](#));

(c) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the application of the Organized Crime Convention for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment ([CTOC/COP/WG.2/2022/3–CTOC/COP/WG.3/2022/3](#));

(d) Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the status of the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto ([CTOC/COP/WG.6/2022/CRP.1](#)).

Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance

87. The Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance had before it the following:

(a) Provisional agenda and annotations ([CTOC/COP/WG.2/2022/1–CTOC/COP/WG.3/2022/1](#));

(b) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the application of the Organized Crime Convention for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment ([CTOC/COP/WG.2/2022/3–CTOC/COP/WG.3/2022/3](#));

(c) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on effective strategies to prevent and combat organized crime, including mainstreaming of gender and human rights ([CTOC/COP/WG.2/2022/2](#));

(d) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in domestic jurisprudence ([CTOC/COP/WG.2/2020/2](#));

(e) Report on the meeting of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance held in Vienna on 9 and 10 July 2020 ([CTOC/COP/WG.2/2020/3](#));

(f) Note by the Secretariat containing comments received on the discussion points for future consideration stemming from the twelfth meeting of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance (9 and 10 July 2020) ([CTOC/COP/2020/CRP.5](#));

(g) Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the status of the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto ([CTOC/COP/WG.6/2022/CRP.1](#)).

V. Adoption of the report

88. On 27 May 2022, the working groups adopted the present joint report on their meetings.

89. The working groups adopted the present report, as orally amended, on the understanding that the summary of deliberations was a summary by the Chair, to be prepared by the secretariat after the meetings in close coordination with the Chair, in accordance with the organization of work for the thirteenth meetings of the working groups and as approved by the extended Bureau by means of a silence procedure on 29 March 2022.
