



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

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Report on the meeting of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance held in Vienna on 3 and 4 June 2024

I. Introduction

1. The Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance was established pursuant to decision 2/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In its decision 4/3, the Conference decided that the Working Group should be a constant element of the Conference.
2. 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.
3. Furthermore, in its resolution 8/4, entitled “Implementation of the provisions on technical assistance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”, the Conference noted that technical assistance was a fundamental part of the work carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to assist Member States in the effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.
4. 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 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.
5. Furthermore, in its resolution 11/2, entitled “Implementation of the provisions on technical assistance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”, the Conference requested UNODC to 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 Convention.
6. Lastly, in its resolution 11/3, entitled “Outcomes of the joint thematic discussion of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance and the Working Group on International Cooperation on the application of the United Nations



Convention against Transnational Organized Crime for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment”, the Conference endorsed the recommendation that UNODC continue to provide, upon request, technical assistance and capacity-building to States parties to support their efforts in effectively implementing the Convention to prevent and combat transnational organized crimes that affect the environment.

II. Recommendations

7. At its meeting held in Vienna on 3 and 4 June 2024, the recommendations set out below were formulated by the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

A. Recommendations on the criminalization of crimes that affect the environment

8. The Working Group recommended that the Conference consider the following recommendations for adoption, taking note of Conference resolutions 10/6, entitled “Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”, and 11/3, entitled “Outcomes of the joint thematic discussion of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance and the Working Group on International Cooperation on the application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment”:

Recommendation 1

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.

Recommendation 2

As crimes that affect the environment are not victimless crimes and may cause damage to ecosystems, Indigenous peoples, local communities and individuals, parties are encouraged to consider: (a) identifying victims of crimes that affect the environment and providing appropriate and effective assistance and protection to such victims, as well as to witnesses and reporting persons, in accordance with their domestic law, the Organized Crime Convention and the United Nations Convention against Corruption; (b) adopting appropriate measures within their jurisdiction for the seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crimes that affect the environment; and (c) using such proceeds, in a transparent manner, to restore the damage caused to the environment and to victims, in accordance with their domestic law.

Recommendation 3

Parties are encouraged to make effective use of existing international legal frameworks to prevent and combat various forms of crimes that affect the environment, including multilateral environmental agreements to which they are party, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

Recommendation 4

Parties are encouraged to continue to discuss measures to close gaps in the criminalization of crimes that affect the environment and to expand the reach of international cooperation and technical assistance in relation to such crimes.

Recommendation 5

Parties are encouraged, in accordance with their domestic law, to consider conducting comprehensive inter-agency reviews to identify applicable treaties, laws and regulations, as well as administrative provisions, that can be used to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment.

Recommendation 6

States parties are encouraged, as appropriate, to consider strengthening their cooperation with relevant stakeholders to raise awareness regarding crimes that affect the environment, and to consider taking the views of such stakeholders into account in the process of developing national strategies to counter such crimes.

Recommendation 7

Parties are encouraged to provide specialized training on a regular basis to those in charge of detecting, investigating, prosecuting or adjudicating crimes that affect the environment and, where appropriate, to request technical assistance to build the capacity of relevant officials and judges and strengthen the parties' legislative and policy frameworks to prevent and combat such crimes, including, where appropriate, through the support of UNODC, within its mandate and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Recommendation 8

Parties are encouraged to explore options to strengthen their criminal justice responses to crimes that affect the environment, including by utilizing specialized investigators and prosecutors, when appropriate and in accordance with their domestic law.

Recommendation 9

Parties are encouraged to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of crimes that affect the environment that have strong links to transnational organized crime, including, inter alia, the crime of waste trafficking.

B. Recommendations on organized fraud

9. The Working Group recommended that the Conference consider the following recommendations for adoption, reaffirming that the Organized Crime Convention, as a global instrument with wide adherence, offers a broad scope for cooperation to address existing and emerging forms of transnational organized crime, including forms of fraud falling within the scope of the Convention:

Recommendation 10

Parties are encouraged to consider organized fraud as a serious crime, as defined in article 2 (b) of the Organized Crime Convention, in accordance with their national legislation, in order to ensure that, where the offence is transnational in nature and involves an organized criminal group, effective international cooperation can be afforded under the Convention.

Recommendation 11

Parties are encouraged to take measures, consistent with their legal principles, to ensure that legal persons involved in organized fraud are held accountable and are subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal and non-criminal sanctions, including monetary sanctions, in accordance with article 10 of the Organized Crime Convention.

Recommendation 12

Parties are encouraged to make effective use of the provisions of the Organized Crime Convention to detect and prosecute those involved in organized fraud and scam operations, including such operations carried out by means of illegal call centres.

Recommendation 13

Parties should consider, in accordance with articles 24 and 25 of the Organized Crime Convention and consistent with their domestic legislation, taking appropriate measures within their means to provide effective assistance and protection to witnesses and victims of organized fraud, and to establish appropriate procedures to provide access to compensation and restitution for victims of organized fraud.

Recommendation 14

In order to prevent and combat organized fraud, parties are encouraged to strengthen their cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, in particular communication and financial service providers, at both the national and international levels.

Recommendation 15

Parties are encouraged to enhance and provide appropriate resources for the training of their law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners, as well as of relevant stakeholders, on the basis of their needs and priorities in relation to organized fraud.

Recommendation 16

Parties are encouraged to consider initiating financial investigations in organized fraud cases, including in order to seize and confiscate assets derived from such fraud.

Recommendation 17

UNODC should expand the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal to include information on organized fraud, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources for that purpose.

Recommendation 18

Parties are encouraged to consider collecting and analysing their quantitative and qualitative data on organized fraud, including on recent trends, and sharing the relevant information through UNODC, in order to enhance the global understanding of the threat posed by organized fraud. Parties may also wish to consider sharing their relevant legislation, case law and strategies for countering organized fraud with UNODC for publication on SHERLOC.

Recommendation 19

Parties are encouraged to fully consider gender, age, disability, vulnerability and other relevant factors relating to potential victims in the development and implementation of legislation, policies, programmes or initiatives to combat organized fraud.

Recommendation 20

UNODC should continue to develop technical assistance tools and to provide technical assistance, including capacity-building, for the purposes of supporting parties in their efforts to effectively prevent and combat organized fraud in line with the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, and States should consider providing resources to that end.

C. Recommendations on matters pertaining to the review of the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention

10. The Working Group recommended that the Conference consider the following recommendations for adoption, reaffirming the importance of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto to the effective implementation of those instruments:

Recommendation 21

Parties that have not yet done so are urged to nominate national focal points for the Review Mechanism. In cases where such nominations are pending, parties are to implement paragraph 18 of the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism, which provides that permanent representatives are to act as temporary focal points for the review process in such cases.

Recommendation 22

UNODC should continue facilitating communication and the exchange of good practices, challenges and lessons learned throughout the review process, and to that end should explore the possible establishment of a network of designated focal points for the Review Mechanism.

Recommendation 23

Parties are encouraged to enhance the participation of women in the Review Mechanism.

Recommendation 24

Parties are encouraged to make voluntary contributions to UNODC in order to ensure that the secretariat of the Review Mechanism has adequate, predictable, transparent and stable financial, technical and human resources to effectively support the participation of all parties in the Mechanism.

III. Summary of deliberations

11. Stemming from the meeting, the following summary of deliberations was prepared by the secretariat after the meeting in close coordination with the Co-Chairs. The summary of deliberations was not subject to negotiations and adoption during the meeting; rather it is a summary by the Co-Chairs.

A. Criminalization of crimes that affect the environment

12. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 3 June 2024, the Working Group considered agenda item 2, entitled “Criminalization of crimes that affect the environment”.

13. A statement was made by Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in which she highlighted the devastating consequences of crimes that affect the environment and the importance of multilateral agreements, including multilateral environmental agreements, the Organized Crime

Convention and the Convention against Corruption, in addressing such crimes. In her statement, she also underscored the importance of continuing and deepening the partnership between UNEP, UNODC and other partners.

14. With the Chair presiding, the discussion under agenda item 2 was led by the following panellists: Christian Tournié (France), Flor de María Vega Zapata (Peru) and Virginia Prugh (United States of America).

15. In his presentation, Mr. Tournié emphasized the need, in addressing crimes that affect the environment, to recognize that organized criminal groups involved in those crimes are also involved in the commission of other forms of organized crime. He also emphasized the need to strengthen international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, and technical assistance, encourage multi-stakeholder coordination and the development of national strategies, ensure support for victims and environmental rehabilitation, recognize the potential for the private sector and civil society to contribute to efforts to address crimes that affect the environment, and include the topic of crimes that affect the environment on the agenda of the Working Group on a recurring basis.

16. In her presentation, Ms. Vega Zapata addressed the prevalence in Peru of crimes that affect the environment, which included illegal mining, illegal logging and trafficking in forest products, trafficking in wildlife and pollution crime, and described the work of the country's prosecutors specialized in crimes that affect the environment. Her presentation included case studies. Ms. Vega Zapata called upon Member States that had not yet ratified the Organized Crime Convention to do so in order to more effectively combat such crimes. In addition, she highlighted the involvement of organized criminal groups in crimes that affect the environment and emphasized that States parties should afford each other the broadest possible cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, in preventing, investigating and prosecuting such crimes, and make use of existing international and regional networks, such as the South American Wildlife Enforcement Network, to prevent and combat such crimes. She also called upon UNODC to continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building and analyse and disseminate good practices.

17. In her presentation, Ms. Prugh examined good practices, gaps and challenges in combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment. Among the good practices she examined was the conducting of comprehensive, inter-agency reviews to identify relevant legal instruments, agencies holding key responsibilities, resource shortfalls, foreign counterparts, relevant international organizations and key stakeholders, including from the private sector and civil society.

18. Representatives of the secretariat delivered two presentations. The first was focused on the key findings of part 1 of the *Global Analysis on Crimes that Affect the Environment*, published by the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch, concerning the landscape of criminalization. The second was focused on the work undertaken by the Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention: from Theory to Practice to support States in developing more effective legislation on crimes that affect the environment, which included the development of legislative guides and the delivery of legislative assistance at the national and regional levels.

19. After their 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 particular forms of crimes that affect the environment that were threatening their countries, including waste crime, illegal mining and wildlife trafficking, their countries' legislative frameworks and other responses to prevent and combat those crimes, and their countries' membership of relevant international agreements.

20. Several speakers highlighted the need to recognize the involvement of organized criminal groups in crimes that affect the environment, to treat such crimes as serious crimes and to recognize that they are not victimless. Several speakers highlighted

links between crimes that affect the environment and other crimes, such as corruption, money-laundering, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and the manufacture of and trafficking in falsified medical products. A number of speakers underscored the particular impact of crimes that affect the environment on Indigenous peoples and the need to involve Indigenous peoples in responses to those crimes. Several speakers suggested that parties to the Organized Crime Convention should criminalize trafficking in any wildlife specimen, or any forest or mineral resource, carried out with the knowledge that it has been taken in contravention of any international agreement or applicable foreign law concerning their protection, conservation or management.

21. Speakers highlighted the need for coordinated, comprehensive and inclusive global and regional responses, effective implementation of national and international legal frameworks, and strengthened international cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building and sharing of best practices, including, for example, with regard to investigative structures for wildlife trafficking cases. One speaker highlighted the need for greater dialogue between subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention and of other international treaty bodies, such as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Other speakers highlighted the need for greater harmonization of legislative approaches, the need to reinforce measures to tackle corruption, the importance of the seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime and other assets and their recovery and return, including to affected communities, and the need to pursue non-conviction-based confiscation.

22. Two speakers suggested that consideration be given to the designation of specialized bodies to address crimes that affect the environment or to the designation of specialized judges responsible for adjudicating such crimes. With regard to sentencing in cases involving crimes that affect the environment, speakers highlighted substantial damage to an ecosystem and the involvement of an organized criminal group as relevant aggravating factors that could be taken into account for the purposes of sentencing.

B. Organized fraud

23. At its 2nd meeting, on 3 June 2024, the Working Group considered agenda item 3, entitled “Organized fraud”. With the Chair presiding, the discussion was led by the following panellists: Arezki Si Hadj Mohand (Algeria), Sebastian Bley (European Union), Mary Rose E. Magsaysay (Philippines) and Richard Pugh-Cook (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

24. In his presentation, Mr. Si Hadj Mohand briefed the Working Group on the experience of Algeria in dealing with consumer and services fraud, presenting a concrete case in which a company had promised to enrol high school graduates in foreign universities and provide them with related services, but instead had deprived the numerous victims of significant amounts of money while failing to deliver on the promised services. The case was notable owing to the impact of the crime on a large number of people, and the involvement of social influencers, as well as the extent of the operation, which had involved several countries. In addition, he highlighted key aspects of the national legislation of Algeria with regard to combating fraud and transnational organized crime. In closing, he stressed, among other things, the importance of treating fraud as a serious crime, as defined in the Organized Crime Convention, as well as the importance of providing appropriate support for victims and witnesses of fraud.

25. Mr. Bley briefed the Working Group on the key findings contained in the publications by the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation entitled *European Union Serious and Organized Crime Threat Assessment, 2021*, and *European Financial and Economic Crime Threat Assessment 2023: The Other Side of the Coin – An Analysis of Financial and Economic Crime*. He highlighted the

increase in online fraud and the alarming speed with which it was conducted, as well as the common methods used by fraudsters, including social engineering, impersonation and the targeting of victims of fraud through another fraudulent scheme. He noted that some of the most prevalent types of fraud in the European Union were investment fraud, business email compromise, mass mailing and calling schemes, and romance scams. He underscored the importance of international cooperation, the exchange of information and intelligence among law enforcement and judicial authorities, public-private partnerships, and parallel financial investigations as a standard practice in law enforcement.

26. Ms. Magsaysay presented the approach taken by the Philippines in dealing with certain types of fraud, highlighting key aspects of national cases in which organized criminal groups had operated online call centres and online casinos that had exploited victims of human trafficking, who had subsequently been rescued by authorities. She also spoke about shopping scams, identity theft, investment scams, government and bank scams, job scams, lottery scams and scams in which fraudsters impersonate a family member or a relative. In addition, she described strategies adopted in the Philippines, which included partnerships and collaborations, specialized training, technical cooperation, the leveraging of technology and the use of a multi-stakeholder approach. In closing, she stressed the importance of robust legal frameworks and international cooperation to prevent and combat organized fraud.

27. Mr. Pugh-Cook started his presentation by stressing the importance of criminalizing fraud as a serious crime, as defined in the Organized Crime Convention, as well as of cooperation across sectors and with other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector. He underlined the increased threat to the global community posed by fraud, noting that organized criminal groups had become increasingly agile and technically skilled, and exploited systemic vulnerabilities. He then described the approach to fraud taken by the United Kingdom, making reference to the fraud strategy that the country had adopted in May 2023 and the Global Fraud Summit held in London in March 2024. He noted that the United Kingdom had adopted a whole-of-government approach anchored in international cooperation in order to stop fraud at its source and pursue those responsible. The importance of working with international partners, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and UNODC, was emphasized. In closing, he underscored the importance of integrating gender and human rights considerations into efforts to counter fraud.

28. After the presentations, the panellists exchanged additional information with participants in response to their questions and comments on specific challenges and examples of best practices. Some speakers also shared information on their countries or organizations' frameworks to prevent and combat organized fraud.

29. Several speakers underscored the importance of preventing organized fraud, including through public outreach, education and awareness campaigns aimed at preventing individuals and businesses from falling victim in the first place and at preventing revictimization; pursuing organized criminal groups, including through international cooperation, in particular between law enforcement agencies; protecting victims and witnesses; and cooperating with the private sector, including the financial sector, and with social service providers.

30. Some speakers highlighted that victims should be at the centre of any effective response to organized fraud and that focus should be placed on understanding the different typologies of victims, especially the most vulnerable ones.

31. Several speakers provided examples of measures adopted at the national level to prevent and combat organized fraud, which included the adoption or amendment of legal frameworks, including both criminal law and regulatory instruments and provisions, the establishment of organizations and institutions with a specific mandate to counter fraud and cybercrime, and the conducting of public awareness campaigns dedicated to educating the public and preventing them from falling victim to fraud.

32. Speakers highlighted that, although organized fraud was present worldwide, it could impact different regions and countries in different ways. For example, one speaker noted that, in his country, the impersonation of officials was one of the most prevalent types of fraud, while another speaker noted that addressing employment and job fraud as well as investment fraud was a key priority in his country. One speaker stated that offline fraud and the connection between terrorism and fraud should also be considered in the context of the discussions.

33. The Chair then gave the floor to Nicholas Court, from INTERPOL, who outlined the key findings of the “INTERPOL global financial fraud assessment”, which had been made available earlier in the year. Drawing from the assessment, Mr. Court identified fraud as an increasingly transcontinental threat, highlighting the prevalence of different types of fraud, such as advance payment fraud, business email compromise, impersonation fraud, investment fraud, identity fraud and romance fraud, in different regions of the world. Furthermore, he highlighted that the increased use of technology, for example, artificial intelligence, deepfakes and large language model technology, by organized criminal groups was enabling such groups to more easily target victims around the world. Lastly, he emphasized the need to enhance the common understanding of the nature and scale of fraud, at both the domestic and international levels, increase partnerships among sectors, share information and intelligence with INTERPOL and coordinate transnational investigations, respond rapidly to the movement of proceeds of crime, and focus on victims.

C. Matters pertaining to the review of the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention

34. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 June 2024, the Working Group considered agenda item 4, entitled “Matters pertaining to the review of the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention”.

35. Given that no list of observations resulting from country reviews had yet been compiled, the Working Group could not consider substantive issues arising from the review of the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention. Instead, the secretariat provided an update on the status of the review process, presenting an overview of the main challenges encountered, including delays in the nomination of focal points and in the completion of the review of the first thematic cluster, as well as of the technical assistance needs identified in the first years of the process.

36. With the Chair presiding, the discussion under agenda item 4 was facilitated by the following three panellists: Osvaldo Scalezi Junior (Brazil), Oliver Landwehr (European Union) and Ahmed Ait Taleb (Morocco).

37. Mr. Scalezi Junior briefed the Working Group on the efforts of Brazil related to the implementation of the articles of the Organized Crime Convention included in the first thematic cluster of the review process. He underlined the importance of enhancing cooperation among States parties to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices.

38. In his presentation, Mr. Landwehr addressed the significance of the Review Mechanism in strengthening the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and discussed the role and responsibilities of the focal points for the Mechanism, including in the light of his personal experience as the focal point of the European Union. He also underlined the importance of country visits as a means to ensure the timely progress of country reviews, and presented an analysis of the challenges encountered by the European Union in the review process.

39. In his presentation, Mr. Ait Taleb described efforts by Morocco to ensure inter-institutional collaboration with a view to effectively participating in the review process. He also highlighted examples of good practices and challenges in cooperating with other relevant States parties throughout the process. Lastly, he

underlined the need to consult civil society in the preparation of the responses to the self-assessment questionnaires.

40. Following the presentations, the discussions focused on the progress of the Implementation Review Mechanism, including consideration of the good practices identified and the challenges encountered in the review process, as well as on ways to advance the process in a timely manner.

41. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the secretariat's continued efforts to provide substantive and procedural support to States parties, particularly through the organization of briefings and capacity-building sessions, including on the use of "RevMod", the secure module of SHERLOC. Some speakers noted the accumulated delays in the review process, while also noting their national efforts to ensure internal coordination, which included involving civil society in line with the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Review Mechanism, and to strengthen cooperation with other relevant States parties. One speaker noted the positive impact of the constructive dialogues held under the Mechanism to foster broader, multi-stakeholder participation in the efforts to address organized crime.

42. Some speakers called upon States parties to engage in the review process in a timely manner, and one speaker mentioned the need to identify concrete solutions to address the issue of missing nominations of focal points, including, as needed, through the direct involvement of non-Vienna-based permanent missions to the United Nations.

43. Some speakers mentioned the importance of integrating a gender and human rights perspective into the review process, and one speaker noted the need to enhance the participation of women in the Review Mechanism.

44. Several speakers underscored the financial constraints on the secretariat of the Review Mechanism, and one speaker encouraged States parties to provide voluntary financial contributions to ensure the continued functioning of the Mechanism.

D. Other matters

45. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 June 2024, the Working Group considered agenda item 5, entitled "Other matters". Under the agenda item, representatives of the secretariat delivered a presentation on the work undertaken by the Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention: from Theory to Practice to support the development of strategies and policies to prevent and counter organized crime, as well as to mainstream gender and human rights considerations into normative and policy responses to organized crime.

IV. Organization of the meeting

A. Duration of the meeting

46. The Working Group met on 3 and 4 June 2024, holding a total of four meetings.

47. The meetings were co-chaired by Thomas Burrows (United States) and Carlos Alberto Sánchez del Águila (Peru).

B. Statements

48. Representatives of the secretariat provided introductory remarks under agenda items 2, 3, 4 and 5.

49. With the Chair presiding, the discussion under item 2 was led by the following panellists: Christian Tournié (France), Flor de María Vega Zapata (Peru) and Virginia Prugh (United States).

50. With the Chair presiding, the discussion under item 3 was led by the following panellists: Arezki Si Hadj Mohand (Algeria), Sebastian Bley (European Union), Mary Rose E. Magsaysay (Philippines) and Richard Pugh-Cook (United Kingdom).
51. With the Chair presiding, the discussion under item 4 was led by the following panellists: Osvaldo Scazezi Junior (Brazil), Oliver Landwehr (European Union) and Ahmed Ait Taleb (Morocco).
52. Under agenda item 2, statements were made by representatives of the following parties to the Convention: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, European Union, Honduras, India, Italy, Mexico, Russian Federation, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
53. The observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran and INTERPOL also made statements under agenda item 2.
54. Under agenda item 3, statements were made by representatives of the following parties to the Convention: China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, European Union, India, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sudan, Uganda, United Kingdom and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
55. The observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran and INTERPOL also made statements under agenda item 3.
56. Under agenda item 4, statements were made by representatives of the following parties to the Convention: Azerbaijan, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan and United States.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

57. At its 1st meeting, on 3 June 2024, the Working Group adopted by consensus the following agenda:
1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 2. Criminalization of crimes that affect the environment.
 3. Organized fraud.
 4. Matters pertaining to the review of the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention.
 5. Other matters.
 6. Adoption of the report.

D. Attendance

58. The following parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

59. The following parties to the Convention included in their delegations focal points and/or governmental experts nominated in the context of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto: Angola, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, France, Honduras, Italy, Morocco, Pakistan, Panama, Republic of Korea, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Uganda and United States.

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

61. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Integrative Internal Security Governance Secretariat, International Anti-Corruption Academy, INTERPOL, Inter-Parliamentary Union and League of Arab States.

E. Documentation

62. The Working Group had before it the following:

- (a) Annotated provisional agenda ([CTOC/COP/WG.2/2024/1](#));
- (b) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the criminalization of crimes that affect the environment ([CTOC/COP/WG.2/2024/2](#));
- (c) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on organized fraud ([CTOC/COP/WG.2/2024/3](#));
- (d) Background 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.2/2024/4-CTOC/COP/WG.3/2024/4](#)).

V. Adoption of the report

63. At its 4th meeting, on 4 June 2024, the Working Group adopted sections I, II, IV and V of the present report.
