

Resolution 7/1

Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

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

Recalling that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto¹ represent the principal worldwide legal instruments to combat the scourge of transnational organized crime, which affects individuals and societies in all countries, and reaffirming their importance as the main tools available to the international community for this purpose,

Recognizing that the Convention and the Protocols thereto offer expanded opportunities for international cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime, and convinced that in this regard the potential of these instruments is yet to be fully developed,

Reaffirming that the purpose of the Convention and the Protocols thereto is, inter alia, to promote cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime more effectively, and stressing the need to take additional concerted action to reinforce the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto by States parties and to identify related technical assistance needs,

Recalling article 32 of the Convention, Conference resolution 5/1 of 22 October 2010 and General Assembly resolution 68/193 of 18 December 2013, in which, inter alia, the need for the establishment of a mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto by States parties was reiterated,

Recalling also its resolutions 5/5 of 22 October 2010 and 6/1 of 19 October 2012, as well as its decision 4/1 of 17 October 2008,

Recalling further its decisions 1/2 of 7 July 2004, 2/1 of 20 October 2005, 2/2 and 2/6 of 19 October 2005, 3/2 of 18 October 2006 and 4/3 and 4/4 of 17 October 2008 and its resolutions 5/3 and 5/4 of 22 October 2010, and emphasizing the usefulness of the existing working groups to advise and assist the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of its mandate, with regard to the Convention as a whole and the Protocols thereto,

Recalling articles 29 and 30 of the Convention, and stressing the connections between the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and the technical assistance programmes provided to requesting States parties with a view to combating transnational organized crime,

Welcoming the role and contributions of signatories, non-signatories, relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in the Conference,

Welcoming also the important role of civil society in assisting national authorities in preventing and combating transnational organized crime, thus promoting the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, including by facilitating the provision of technical

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

assistance as well as assistance to those affected by organized crime, in particular trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants,

Welcoming with appreciation recent accessions to and ratifications of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

Noting with appreciation the awareness-raising and dissemination activities and the legislative assistance undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in support of the ratification and implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

1. *Invites* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto¹ and to effectively implement their provisions;

2. *Urges* States parties to the Convention and the Protocols thereto that have not yet done so to harmonize their national legislation in a manner consistent with their obligations thereunder;

3. *Underlines* that the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto is an ongoing and gradual process and that it is necessary to explore all options regarding an appropriate and effective mechanism to assist the Conference in that review;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene, within existing resources from the regular budget and without prejudice to other mandated activities, at least one open-ended intergovernmental meeting, with interpretation, to include government officials with practical expertise related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, with a view to analysing the above-mentioned options and submissions by States parties, and to submit to the Conference at its eighth session a report containing concrete recommendations for reviewing, through a possible mechanism or mechanisms, the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and recommendations for cooperating with relevant international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations, in line with article 32 of the Convention and as guided by the principles and characteristics contained in its resolution 5/5;

5. *Requests* States parties, and invites other interested Member States, on a voluntary basis, to submit to the Secretariat their comments and views for the purpose of deliberations at the above-mentioned meetings;

6. *Decides* that the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants and the Working Group on Firearms will be constant elements of the Conference of the Parties, forwarding their reports and recommendations to the Conference, and encourages those working groups and the Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance to consider meeting on an annual basis, as needed, and to hold their meetings consecutively, in order to ensure the effective use of resources;

7. *Also decides* that the working groups shall continue to analyse, in a comprehensive manner, the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, making the best use of the information gathered through the comprehensive self-assessment software (“omnibus survey software”) and other tools that have been developed and compiled so far by the Secretariat, in full respect of the principle of multilingualism;

8. *Reiterates* its call for States parties, in accordance with article 32 of the Convention, to provide information and, in this regard, invites them and other interested Member States, on a voluntary basis, to submit to the Secretariat, through the omnibus survey software, information on their programmes, plans and practices, in a concise and focused manner, as well as on the legislative and administrative measures taken to implement the Convention and the Protocols thereto;

9. *Invites* States parties and, on a voluntary basis, other interested Member States, to provide information on the relevant legislative tools to be included in the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime;

10. *Encourages* all States parties, where applicable, to identify and prioritize technical assistance needs in their responses to the comprehensive self-assessment checklist and also on the basis of the needs assessment tools developed by the Secretariat;

11. *Invites* States parties to prepare their responses to the comprehensive self-assessment checklist through broad consultations at the national level with all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, individuals and groups outside the public sector;

12. *Requests* the working groups to continue to identify good practices in and challenges and technical assistance needs for the effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto;

13. *Decides* to continue to include in its agenda an item on the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto that will, inter alia, allow States parties, and other interested Member States, to take stock of the activities of the working groups and to assess their functioning and effectiveness, including cost-effectiveness;

14. *Calls upon* each State party to designate a focal point for the purpose of communicating with the Secretariat in compliance with paragraphs 4 and 5 of article 32 of the Convention and on the implementation of the Protocols to the Convention and to provide the Secretariat with the contact details of that focal point, and invites other interested Member States, on a voluntary basis, to provide the details of their focal points to the Secretariat for discussing the matters addressed in paragraphs 4 and 5 of article 32;

15. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue assisting the working groups in the performance of their functions;

16. *Also requests* the Secretariat to prepare, within existing resources, a report for the working groups, setting out specific efficiency and cost-saving measures that the Conference of the Parties may consider adopting;

17. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Conference at its eighth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.