



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

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## Fourth session

Vienna, 8-17 October 2008

### Provisional agenda and annotations

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  - (d) Expert consultation on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
  - (e) Expert consultation on the protection of victims and witnesses;
  - (f) Expert consultation on travel and identity documents;

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\* Reissued in the electronic format for technical reasons.



- (g) Expert consultation on the marking of firearms, the keeping of records on firearms, trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and the identification of competent authorities;
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## **Annotations**

### **1. Organizational matters**

#### **(a) Opening of the fourth session of the Conference**

The fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime will be convened on Wednesday, 8 October 2008, at 10 a.m.

#### **(b) Election of officers**

In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure for the Conference, at the opening of each session a President, eight Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur shall be elected from among the representatives of the States parties that are present at the session. In electing the officers of the session, each of the five regional groups shall be represented by two officers, one of whom shall be from among the representatives of the States that are parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to one or more, and if possible all, of the Protocols that have entered into force by the opening of the session. The bureau shall include at least two representatives of States that are parties to all the instruments that have entered into force by the opening of the session.

In accordance with the practice established by the Conference, the offices of the President and Rapporteur of the Conference are normally subject to rotation among the five regional groups. Thus, at the fourth session, the President of the Conference and one Vice-President would be nominated by the Group of Western European and other States; the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States would be asked to nominate one Vice-President and the Rapporteur; and the other regional groups would be asked to nominate two Vice-Presidents each.

#### **(c) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

At its third session, held in Vienna from 9 to 18 October 2006, the Conference approved the draft provisional agenda for its fourth session (CTOC/COP/2006/14, annex II) on the understanding that a decision on the inclusion of

sub-items 2 (b) (iii)-(vi) would be taken by the Bureau in consultation with the Chairmen of the regional groups.

The extended Bureau (the Bureau of the Conference and the Chairmen of the regional groups) met on 26 March, 17 April and 28 May 2008. The extended Bureau decided to add under item 1 a sub-item entitled "General discussion"; to add under item 2 a sub-item entitled "Expert consultation on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime"; and to include in the provisional agenda the information contained in the bracketed sub-items 2 (b) (iii)-(vi) of the draft provisional agenda.

In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure for the Conference, the proposed organization of work was prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the extended Bureau. It was decided that the fourth session would have a duration of eight days, from 8 to 17 October 2008, and that the meetings would be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. The resources available to the Conference at its fourth session will permit the holding of 20 meetings (16 plenary meetings and 4 parallel meetings) with simultaneous interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations. The proposed organization of work (see annex) was approved by the extended Bureau.

**(d) Participation of observers**

Rule 14 of the rules of procedure for the Conference provides that, subject to prior written notification to the Secretary-General, any State or regional economic integration organization that is a signatory to the Convention in accordance with its article 36, paragraphs 1 and 2, shall be entitled to participate as an observer in the Conference.

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure provides that any other State or regional economic integration organization that has not signed the Convention in accordance with its article 36, paragraphs 1 and 2, may apply to the bureau for observer status, which shall be accorded unless otherwise decided by the Conference.

Rule 16 of the rules of procedure provides that, subject to prior written notification to the Secretary-General, representatives of entities and organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate as observers in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices, representatives of United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds, as well as representatives of functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, shall be entitled to participate as observers (i.e. without the right to vote) in the deliberations (i.e. plenary meetings) of the Conference.

Rule 17 of the rules of procedure provides that relevant non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may apply to the bureau for observer status, which should be accorded unless otherwise decided by the Conference. Should relevant non-governmental organizations not having consultative status with the Council apply for observer status, the secretariat will circulate a list of such organizations in accordance with rule 17.

**(e) Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials**

According to rule 19 of the rules of procedure for the Conference, the bureau shall examine the credentials of representatives of each State party and the names of the persons constituting the State party's delegation and submit its report to the Conference. According to rule 20 of the rules of procedure, pending a decision of the bureau on their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the session. Any representative of a State party to whose admission another State party has made objection shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives of States parties until the bureau has reported and the Conference has given its decision.

At its third session, the Bureau reported to the Conference that several States parties did not comply with rule 18 (Submission of credentials) of the rules of procedure. The Bureau emphasized the obligation of each State party to submit the credentials of representatives in accordance with rule 18.

In view of the difficulties encountered by many States parties in complying with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the secretariat recommended to the Conference the consideration of an amendment that would simplify that rule; the Conference decided to defer consideration of that recommendation to its fourth session (CTOC/COP/2006/14, para. 33).

**(f) General discussion**

A sub-item entitled "General discussion" was included in the agenda to allow time for statements to be made on matters of a general nature that are related to the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and that may be of interest to the Conference. Based on the experience gained at past sessions of the Conference, the extended Bureau decided that the organization of a general discussion would offer participants an opportunity to express their views in general terms in the plenary, while allowing more focused and interactive exchanges to take place under the substantive items of the agenda. A list of speakers will be opened by the secretariat on 15 August 2008 and all States are invited to indicate their intention to address the Conference under the sub-item. The list of speakers will remain open until noon on 8 October 2008. Inscription in the list will be on a "first come, first served" basis on the understanding that priority will be given to representatives of ministerial or similar rank. Speakers are requested to limit their statements to three minutes.

**2. Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto**

**(a) Information-gathering and possible mechanisms to review implementation**

In its decision 3/1, the Conference urged States parties to encourage and support other States parties in completing, for the first two reporting cycles, the questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto; requested the secretariat to submit final consolidated reports on those two reporting cycles; also requested the secretariat to develop a sample format for the voluntary provision of supplementary information with a view to assisting States parties in undertaking a detailed evaluation of their compliance with specific provisions of the Convention and the Protocols thereto; and, subject to the availability of

extrabudgetary resources, further requested the secretariat to explore all possibilities of using modern information technology and Web-based applications with a view to ensuring maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

The Open-ended Interim Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance held a meeting in Vienna from 3 to 5 October 2007, pursuant to Conference decisions 2/6 and 3/4, and formulated a number of proposals for technical assistance activities with regard to the gathering of information on the implementation of the Convention. In that connection, the Working Group requested the Secretariat:

(a) To develop immediately an efficient and user-friendly information-gathering tool in the form of an interim computer-based checklist;

(b) To ensure that the checklist did not depart from the substantive content of the questionnaires instituted by the Conference under the two reporting cycles in order to avoid duplication of effort for States that had already reported through the questionnaires;

(c) To forward the checklist to States that had not responded to the existing questionnaires and encourage them to use it and to provide their responses sufficiently in advance of the fourth session of the Conference in order that the Secretariat might complete the analytical reports requested by the Conference;

(d) To begin developing comprehensive software-based information-gathering tools for the Convention and each of its Protocols, accompanied by a guide facilitating the use of the tools, and to report on its efforts to the Conference at its fourth session.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the first reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2005/2/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the first reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2005/3/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the first reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2005/4/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/2/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/6/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/7/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States (CTOC/COP/2006/8/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretariat on the development of tools to gather information from States on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and each of the Protocols thereto (CTOC/COP/2008/2)

Note by the Secretariat on possible mechanisms to review implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (CTOC/COP/2008/3)

**(b) Expert consultation on criminalization**

The Conference, at its first session, adopted a programme of work for its second session for the review of the implementation of the Convention (Conference decision 1/2) and the two protocols that were in force at the time, namely the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (decision 1/5) and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (decision 1/6). That programme of work included the consideration of the basic adaptation of national legislation in accordance with those instruments, starting with the examination of criminalization legislation. A similar programme of work was adopted by the Conference at its second session (decision 2/5) with respect to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which had entered into force in July 2005.

The final consolidated reports on the implementation of the Convention (CTOC/COP/2005/2/Rev.2), the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (CTOC/COP/2005/3/Rev.2), the Migrants Protocol (CTOC/COP/2005/4/Rev.2) and the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/2006/8/Rev.1) accordingly reflect information provided by States on national criminalization provisions in accordance with those instruments.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the first reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2005/2/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing

the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the first reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2005/3/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the first reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2005/4/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States (CTOC/COP/2006/8/Rev.1)

Note by the Secretariat on criminalization within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (CTOC/COP/2008/4)

**(c) Expert consultation on international cooperation, with particular emphasis on extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for the purpose of confiscation, and the establishment and strengthening of central authorities**

The Conference, at its second session, 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 (Conference decision 2/2). The working group met for the first time during the third session of the Conference. Noting that the working group had led a fruitful exchange of ideas and experiences in an environment of cooperation and goodwill, the Conference decided that the working group would be a constant element of the Conference (decision 3/2).

Decision 3/2 also contained detailed instructions and guidance for the Secretariat on the development of tools to promote international cooperation under the Convention, such as the online directory of authorities designated to deal with requests for mutual legal assistance, extradition and other forms of international cooperation under the Convention and the Migrants Protocol.

Noting that close working contacts between central authorities designated under article 18 (Mutual legal assistance) of the Convention and between competent authorities for extradition requests were crucial to the efficient granting of international legal cooperation pursuant to the Convention, the Conference in its decision 3/2 also requested its secretariat to organize, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, workshops for those authorities, liaison magistrates and judges, prosecutors and practitioners in charge of handling cases for which cooperation is required, with a view to facilitating exchanges among counterparts and promoting awareness and knowledge of the mechanisms for international cooperation provided for under the Convention.

The Conference, also in its decision 3/2, decided that it would discuss at its fourth session the issue of confiscation in the context of articles 12 (Confiscation and seizure), 13 (International cooperation for purposes of confiscation) and 18 of the

Convention, including non-conviction-based confiscation, as well as issues relating to the successful implementation of article 16 (Extradition) of the Convention.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the first reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2005/2/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/2/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/6/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/7/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States (CTOC/COP/2006/8/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretariat on work done by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote the implementation of the provisions on international cooperation in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC/COP/2008/5)

**(d) Expert consultation on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**

At its third session, the Conference requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to develop or collect and make available to States parties the following: practical guidelines for national competent authorities to identify victims of trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation; successful practices with respect to investigations of offences covered by the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Migrants Protocol, and the provision of protection and assistance measures to victims; successful practices in the areas of training and capacity-building, as well as awareness-raising strategies and campaigns, with a view to enhancing efforts to identify and assist victims of trafficking in persons or persons who had been the object of conduct set forth in article 6 (Criminalization) of the Migrants Protocol (Conference decision 3/3).

In the same decision, the Conference also requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to identify opportunities to mainstream its

work related to the furtherance and objectives of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Migrants Protocol into relevant United Nations agencies that were lead agencies in humanitarian crises or emergency situations.

### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (A/63/90)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the first reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2005/3/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/6/Rev.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: additional questions for possible discussion (CTOC/COP/2008/6)

Report of the Secretariat on work done by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC/COP/2008/8)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Secretary-General on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (CTOC/COP/2008/9)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Executive Director on the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (CTOC/COP/2008/10)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking (CTOC/COP/2008/11)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking (E/CN.15/2008/6)

Report of the Executive Director on the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (E/CN.15/2008/10)

Report on the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking (CTOC/COP/2008/CRP.1)

**(e) Expert consultation on the protection of victims and witnesses**

The Conference, at its second session, adopted a programme of work for its third session for the review of the implementation of the Convention (Conference decision 2/1), the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (decision 2/3) and the Migrants Protocol (decision 2/4). That programme of work included the consideration of issues related to the protection of witnesses and victims under those instruments.

The final consolidated reports on the implementation of the Convention (CTOC/COP/2006/2/Rev.1), the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (CTOC/COP/2005/3/Rev.2 and CTOC/COP/2006/6/Rev.1), the Migrants Protocol (CTOC/COP/2005/4/Rev.2 and CTOC/COP/2006/7/Rev.1) and the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/2006/8/Rev.1) accordingly reflect information provided by States on national implementation of relevant provisions under the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the first reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2005/3/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the first reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2005/4/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/2/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/6/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/7/Rev.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the protection of victims and witnesses (CTOC/COP/2008/12)

**(f) Expert consultation on travel and identity documents**

The programme of work adopted by the Conference for the review, at its third session, of the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (Conference decision 2/3) and the Migrants Protocol (decision 2/4) included the consideration of matters related to security and control of documents and legitimacy and validity of documents.

The final consolidated reports on the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (CTOC/COP/2006/6/Rev.1) and the Migrants Protocol (CTOC/COP/2006/7/Rev.1) accordingly reflect information provided by States on national implementation of relevant provisions under those instruments.

At its third session, the Conference urged States parties to the two Protocols to review their policies, legislation and regulatory regimes, especially with regard to the travel and identity documents referred to in article 12 of each of those Protocols, in order to ensure consistent and effective application of the obligations contained therein (decision 3/3).

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/6/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/7/Rev.1)

Note by the Secretariat on travel and identity documents (CTOC/COP/2008/13)

**(g) Expert consultation on the marking of firearms, the keeping of records on firearms, trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and the identification of competent authorities**

The Conference, at its second session, adopted a programme of work for its third session for the review of the implementation of the Firearms Protocol (Conference decision 2/5). That programme of work included an exchange of views and experience regarding record-keeping, marking of firearms and licensing gained in the implementation of articles 7 (Record-keeping), 8 (Marking of firearms) and 10 (General requirements for export, import and transit licensing or authorization systems) of the Protocol. The Conference requested its secretariat to collect information from States parties in the context of the programme of work.

The final consolidated report on the implementation of the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/2006/8/Rev.1) accordingly reflects information provided by States on national implementation of the relevant provisions of the Firearms Protocol.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States (CTOC/COP/2006/8/Rev.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the marking of firearms, the keeping of records on firearms, trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and the identification of competent authorities (CTOC/COP/2008/14)

**(h) Expert consultation on money-laundering**

The Conference, at its second session, adopted a programme of work for its third session for the review of the implementation of the Convention (Conference decision 2/1). That programme of work included a review of implementation of the provisions on money-laundering (article 7) of the Convention.

The final consolidated reports on the implementation of the Convention (CTOC/COP/2005/2/Rev.2 and CTOC/COP/2006/2/Rev.1) accordingly reflect information provided by States on national implementation of the provisions on money-laundering of the Convention.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the first reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2005/2/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: consolidated information received from States for the second reporting cycle (CTOC/COP/2006/2/Rev.1)

Note by the Secretariat on money-laundering within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC/COP/2008/15)

**3. Technical assistance**

At its second session, the Conference established an open-ended interim working group on technical assistance to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on technical assistance (Conference decision 2/6).

The Open-ended Interim Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance met during the third session of the Conference and formulated recommendations that the Conference endorsed in its decision 3/4. The Working Group subsequently held a second meeting, in Vienna from 3 to 5 October 2007, at which it formulated further recommendations for consideration by the Conference at its fourth session.

At the second meeting, the Working Group requested the secretariat to submit to the Conference, at its fourth session, proposals for specific technical assistance activities in the following areas: (a) gathering information on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto; (b) strengthening criminal justice responses to organized crime based on the Convention and the Protocols thereto; (c) international cooperation and establishment or strengthening of central authorities for mutual legal assistance and extradition; (d) data collection; and (e) implementation of the Protocols to the Convention.

The Working Group also requested the secretariat to organize, during the fourth session of the Conference, a round table for the technical assistance providers represented at the session to facilitate the exchange of information on technical assistance being provided and the promotion of and closer coordination in the delivery of such assistance.

**Documentation**

Report on the meeting of the Open-ended Interim Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance held in Vienna from 3 to 5 October 2007 (CTOC/COP/2008/7)

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on proposals for technical assistance activities designed to meet the needs identified in the priority areas determined by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC/COP/2008/16)

Note by the Secretariat on budgetary and financial matters (CTOC/COP/2008/17)

**4. Future activities of the Conference**

The Conference may wish to establish its programme of work for the fifth and subsequent sessions.

**5. Financial and budgetary matters**

In its resolution 55/25, the General Assembly decided that, until the Conference of the Parties to the Convention established pursuant to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime decided otherwise, the account referred to in article 30 of the Convention would be operated within the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, and encouraged Member States to begin making adequate voluntary contributions to the above-mentioned account for the provision to developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the technical assistance that they might require for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, including for the preparatory measures needed for that implementation.

In accordance with rule 72 (Preparation of a budget) of the rules of procedure for the Conference, the secretariat is to prepare a budget for the financing of the activities of the Conference related to technical cooperation undertaken in accordance with articles 29-32 of the Convention, article 10 of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, article 14 of the Migrants Protocol and article 14 of the Firearms Protocol and communicate it to the States parties at least 60 days in advance of the opening of the regular session at which the budget is to be adopted.

In accordance with rule 73 (Adoption of the budget) of the rules of procedure, the Conference shall consider and decide on the budget prepared pursuant to rule 72.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on budgetary and financial matters (CTOC/COP/2008/17)

**6. Other matters**

The Conference may wish to consider any outstanding matters that would enable it to pursue in an efficient and effective manner the implementation of its mandate.

**7. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Conference**

The Conference is to consider and approve a provisional agenda for its fifth session, which shall be drawn up by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau.

**8. Adoption of the report of the Conference on its fourth session**

The Conference is to adopt a report on its fourth session, the draft of which will be prepared by the Rapporteur.

## Annex

## Proposed organization of work

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Parallel meeting</i>
<b>Wednesday, 8 October</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 1 (a). Opening of the session Item 1 (b). Election of officers Item 1 (c). Adoption of the agenda and organization of work Item 1 (d). Participation of observers Item 1 (e). Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials Item 1 (f). General discussion	
3-6 p.m.	Item 1 (f). General discussion ( <i>continued</i> )	Open-ended working group of Government experts on extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for purposes of confiscation (item 2 (c))
<b>Thursday, 9 October</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 2 (a). Information-gathering and possible mechanisms to review implementation of the Convention and its Protocols	Open-ended working group of Government experts on extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for purposes of confiscation (item 2 (c)) ( <i>continued</i> )
3-6 p.m.	Item 2 (a). Information-gathering and possible mechanisms to review implementation of the Convention and its Protocols ( <i>continued</i> )	Open-ended working group of Government experts on extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for purposes of confiscation (item 2 (c)) ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Friday, 10 October</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 2 (b). Expert consultation on criminalization	Open-ended working group of Government experts on extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for purposes of confiscation (item 2 (c)) ( <i>continued</i> )
3-6 p.m.	Item 2 (c). Expert consultation on international cooperation Item 2 (h). Expert consultation on money-laundering	

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Parallel meeting</i>
<b>Monday, 13 October</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 2 (d). Expert consultation on the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol	
3-6 p.m.	Item 2 (e). Expert consultation on the protection of victims and witnesses	
<b>Tuesday, 14 October</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 2 (f). Expert consultation on travel and identity documents	Round table of technical assistance providers
3-6 p.m.	Item 2 (g). Expert consultation on the marking of firearms, the keeping of records on firearms, trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunitions and the identification of competent authorities	Round table of technical assistance providers ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Wednesday, 15 October</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 3. Open-ended Interim Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance	
3-6 p.m.	Item 3. Open-ended Interim Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance ( <i>continued</i> )	
<b>Thursday, 16 October</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 3. Open-ended Interim Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance ( <i>continued</i> )	
3-6 p.m.	Item 3. Open-ended Interim Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance ( <i>continued</i> )	
<b>Friday, 17 October</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Items 2 and 3. Adoption of decisions	
3-6 p.m.	Item 4. Future activities of the Conference	
	Item 5. Financial and budgetary matters	
	Item 6. Other matters	
	Item 7. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Conference	
	Item 8. Consideration and adoption of the report on the fourth session of the Conference	