



OAS ANTICORRUPTION MECHANISM

MESICIC Committee of Experts

HEMISPHERIC REPORT OF THE

FIFTH ROUND OF REVIEW

Report on the Legal and Institutional Developments
by OAS Member States on Anticorruption Matters

**HEMISPHERIC REPORT ON THE FIFTH ROUND OF REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE
OF EXPERTS OF THE MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

**MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Committee of Experts

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INTRODUCTION

Article 30 of the Rules of Procedure and Other Provisions of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) requires the Committee to adopt a Hemispheric Report at the end of each round of review of the implementation of the Convention provisions selected for that round. It also stipulates that the Hemispheric Report is made up of two parts:

- A. A general, comprehensive review that includes, among other things, the conclusions arrived at in the country reports and the recommendations of a collective nature, both as regards following up on the results of said reports and regarding the recommended actions for consolidating or strengthening hemispheric cooperation on the issues addressed in the provisions under consideration in each round or closely related to them; and,
- B. A summary of progress made by the countries overall in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee in previous rounds.

In accordance with that requirement, the Committee has previously adopted Hemispheric Reports for the four previous rounds of review: the first in 2006,¹ the second in 2008,² the third in 2011,³ and the fourth in 2015.⁴

Following the conclusion of the Fifth Review Round, the Committee will set out in this Report the results of that round in the fashion proscribed in the regulations cited above. This Hemispheric Report will cover the following topics:

Chapter I highlights the importance that the OAS has placed on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC) as a pioneering international legal instrument in its field. It also describes the comprehensive approach to the corruption problem on which the Convention's provisions are based; the commitments for public institutions, the private sector, and civil society arising from those provisions; and the call it makes for inter-American cooperation in addressing the problem effectively.

In Chapters II, III, and IV, the Report offers a description of the MESICIC as an intergovernmental instrument for horizontal cooperation among its States Parties that also allows broad participation by civil society, and it showcases the role of its Committee of Experts: the Mechanism's technical or-

1 Available at: http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mec_ron1_inf_hemis_en.pdf.

2 Available at: http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mec_ron2_inf_hemis.pdf.

3 Available at: http://www.oas.org/juridico/PDFs/IIIinf_hemis_en.pdf.

4 Available at: http://www.oas.org/english/sla/dlc/mesicic/docs/mesicic_inf_hem_final_4_ronda.pdf

gan, designed to assist those States in fully implementing the IACAC in order to meet their commitments arising from it.



31st Meeting of the MESICIC Committee of Experts. September 2018, Washington D.C., United States

Chapter V will discuss the Fifth Round of Review, underscoring the importance of the approach taken in the follow-up to the recommendations made by the Committee to the countries in the Second Round and in the review of new developments in the areas of the IACAC selected for review in that round (Article III, paragraphs 5 and 8, and Article VI), along with the importance of the provisions of the IACAC selected by the Committee to be reviewed, with regard to their implementation, in the Fifth Round (Article III, paragraphs 3 and 12).

That chapter will also refer to the particular situation of the latest States to adhere to the MESICIC, which is focused on implementation of the provisions reviewed in both the Second and Fifth Rounds.

Finally, it sets out the stages in the review process, the activities undertaken to conduct the review, and the Committee's main activities during the Fifth Round, including the adoption of the country reports, the characteristics and general contents of which are described.

Chapter VI will discuss on-site visits, which constitute an important stage in the review process that is worth highlighting.

Chapter VII provides a general and comprehensive review of the country reports referred to in Article 30(a) of the above-mentioned Rules of Procedure of the Committee, focusing on the review of the recommendations contained in those reports, first with respect to the provisions of the IACAC reviewed in the Second Round, as a result of the follow-up to their implementation and new developments in those areas, and, second, with respect to implementation of the provisions of the IACAC selected for the Fifth Round.

Chapter VIII gives a summary of the progress made by the countries overall in implementing the recommendations formulated by the Committee referred to in Article 30(b) of its Rules of Procedure, focusing on those formulated to the countries in the Second Round that, as already noted, were followed up in the Fifth Round.



4th Meeting of the Conference of States Parties.
December 2015, Washington D.C., United States.

Chapter IX summarizes the numerous different steps taken by the countries that the Committee has identified as representing progress with the implementation of the recommendations formulated in the Second Round, which are identified in Annex IV of this Report serves to showcase the countries' efforts in their fight against corruption, in the shape of specific actions.

Chapter X focuses on consolidation of the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC as a hemispheric forum for the exchange of best practices and refers to such matters as the methodology adopted by the Committee for presenting, disseminating, and making use of them, and to the best practices reported by States both in connection with the application of that new methodology and in their responses to the Questionnaire regarding the provisions of the IACAC selected for the Second and Fifth Rounds.

Chapter XI sets out references to the usefulness of the IACAC and of the MESICIC contained both in express statements and in the actions that the countries have undertaken in accordance with the terms of the Convention and with the recommendations formulated to them for its implementation by the MESICIC Committee of Experts.

Chapter XII refers to the Eighth Summit of the Americas, held in Lima, Peru, in April 2018, in which the Heads of State and Government of the American States adopted new mandates regarding the MESICIC, including the need to strengthen it financially.

Chapter XIII contains the collective recommendations referred to in Article 30(a) of the Committee's Rules of Procedure: first of all, those dealing with follow-up on the results of the reports, which are intended for the States to undertake the actions necessary for the implementation of the recommendations they contain; and, second, those dealing with the type of actions recommended for consolidating or strengthening hemispheric cooperation in connection with the Convention provisions examined during the Fifth Round and that are closely related to them.

Chapter XIV describes a variety of activities in which the MESICIC participated, in addition to those addressed in Chapter V; while not carried out directly by the Committee of Experts, they are closely related to its work.

This Report was adopted by the MESICIC Committee of Experts based on the draft prepared by its Technical Secretariat in compliance with the terms of Article 9(f) of the Committee's Rules of Procedure.

I. THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

1.1 A PIONEERING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENT IN ITS FIELD

The Inter-American Convention against Corruption⁵ (IACAC) was the first international legal instrument in its field. It was adopted in 1996 at a Specialized Conference held under the aegis of the OAS in Caracas, and it set the precedent for later developments in this area that took place within the OECD, the Council of Europe, the African Union, and the United Nations.

The adoption of the IACAC was a pioneering step that recognized the international scope of corruption and was the result of the high priority our countries had in regard to this problem when, at the First Summit of the Americas, held in Miami in 1994, they agreed to negotiate a hemispheric agreement on the topic within the OAS.

1.2 A CONVENTION WITH THE BROADEST ACCEPTANCE BY THE AMERICAN STATES



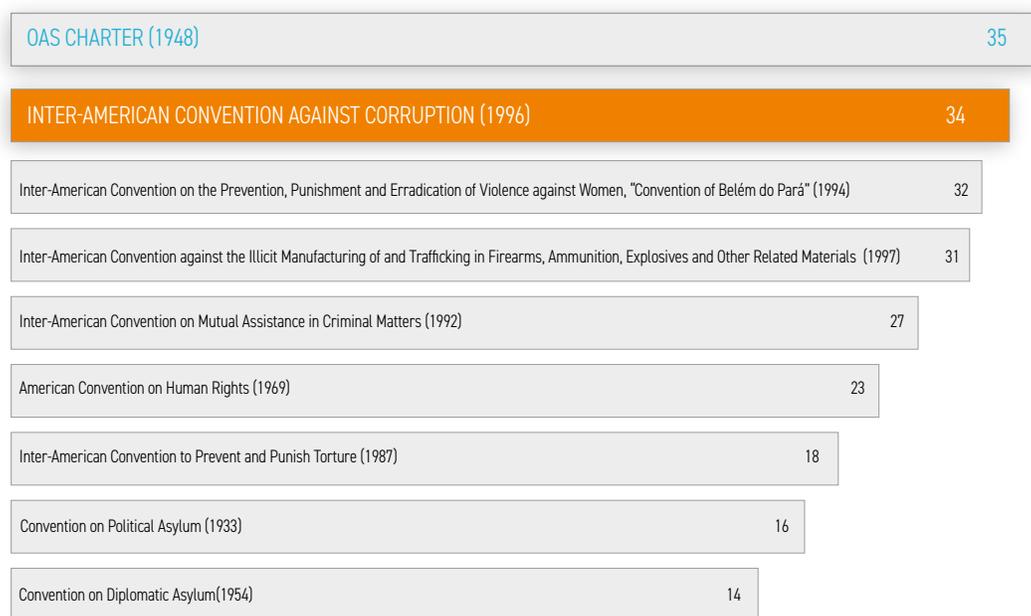
The IACAC also responds to the OAS Charter, which states that “representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region,” in that with this instrument, the Member States have recognized that corruption is one of the most serious threats faced by democracies.

This can be seen in the broad acceptance of the IACAC among the States of the Americas, making it one of the most ratified inter-American treaties compared to both the OAS Charter itself and other treaties of equal importance, as can be seen on the following graph.

Dominica’s accession to the MESICIC, during the 30th Meeting of the Committee of Experts. March 2018, Washington D.C., United States

5 The text of the Convention is available at: www.oas.org/juridico/english/Treaties/b-58.html.

GRAPHIC COMPARING THE IACAC AND OTHER INTER-AMERICAN TREATIES BY NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES:



NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES

1.3. A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF CORRUPTION

The IACAC adopts a comprehensive approach to the problem of corruption and, accordingly, it contains measures for the prevention, detection, and investigation of acts of corruption, for punishing those who commit them, and for enabling States to recover the assets lost through those acts.

Article III of the IACAC sets out measures intended to prevent corruption, such as standards for the prevention of conflicts of interest and the conservation of public resources; the understanding of those standards by public servants and the recognition of a public servant's right to equitable compensation; the hiring of public servants in accordance with the principles of openness, equity, and efficiency, and the procurement of goods, services, and works by the State in accordance with those same principles.

With respect to the investigation of acts of corruption and recognizing the multilateral nature of the corruption problem, (...) establishes measures to enable its states parties to provide the broadest possible mutual assistance for the investigation and prosecution of those acts.

That article of the IACAC also establishes important measures for detecting acts of corruption, such as those that require public servants to report the perpetrators of such acts and that extend protection to whistleblowers, and those that establish systems requiring persons who perform public functions to re-

gister their incomes, assets, and liabilities, which can be of great use in detecting possible conflicts of interest and cases of illicit enrichment.

With respect to the investigation of acts of corruption and recognizing the multilateral nature of the corruption problem, Article XIV of the IACAC establishes measures to enable its States Parties to provide the broadest possible mutual assistance for the investigation and prosecution of those acts, in order to secure the evidence and pursue the formalities that such undertakings require.

The IACAC also sets out a series of measures to prevent impunity for those who commit acts of corruption, such as the adequate criminalization for these acts in the criminal legislation of States Parties (Articles VI, VII, and XI), as well as that of transnational bribery (Article VIII), and illicit enrichment (Article IX). In addition, Article XIII sets out provisions for streamlining the extradition of persons who have committed acts of corruption, and Article XVII provides rules for preventing asylum mechanisms from being abused to evade justice in such cases.

To enable States to recover property or proceeds obtained through acts of corruption, Article XV of the IACAC sets out measures for the identification, tracing, freezing, seizure, and forfeiture of property or proceeds obtained, derived from, or used in the commission of corruption offenses.

1.4. RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO INCLUDE INSTITUTIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN EFFORTS TO ADDRESS CORRUPTION

The IACAC's comprehensive approach to fighting corruption is not limited to the establishment of legal provisions. Although it is of the utmost importance for States to have suitable legal frameworks, if they lack the appropriate institutions for enforcement, and if those institutions do not have the cooperation of civil society and the private sector, they will be unable to tackle the problem effectively.

For that reason, Article III of the IACAC recognizes the key role that oversight bodies play in the prevention, detection, and punishment of corrupt acts and calls on the States to strengthen them, so they can develop modern mechanisms to pursue those goals.

The IACAC also cites the private sector in this article, by establishing measures to counter bribery: such as requiring that companies maintain books and records that accurately reflect the acquisition and disposition of assets, and have sufficient internal accounting controls to enable their officers to detect corrupt acts.

In addition, Article XVI contains rules to prevent bank secrecy from posing as an obstacle in proceedings in which acts of corruption are being investigated.

The IACAC recognizes the key role that oversight bodies play in the prevention, detection, and punishment of corrupt acts and calls on the states to strengthen them, so they can develop modern mechanisms to pursue those goals.

The IACAC also recognizes the role of civil society and nongovernmental organizations by calling, in Article III, for the creation of mechanisms to encourage their participation in anticorruption efforts.

1.5. A CALL FOR INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION TO FIGHT CORRUPTION EFFECTIVELY

The logical consequence of the transnational nature of the corruption problem is the recognition that a States' isolated efforts alone are not enough for effectively tackling it. Therefore, although the IACAC's chief purpose is to promote the development, by each of its States Parties, of measures to prevent, detect, punish, and eradicate corruption, it enshrines as its secondary purpose, which is an indispensable complement to the first, the goal of promoting, facilitating, and regulating cooperation among States in order to ensure that those measures are effective.

In pursuit of this, Article XIV of the IACAC sets out measures whereby its States Parties can extend the broadest possible mutual assistance in the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption and can render mutual technical cooperation on the best manner and methods to prevent, detect, investigate, and punish such actions, by encouraging exchanges of experiences in that area.

2.1 AN INSTRUMENT FOR HORIZONTAL COOPERATION AMONG STATES

The commitment of the American States toward jointly tackling the problem of corruption as set out in the IACAC received a further impetus at the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Québec City in April 2001, when the Heads of State and Government agreed to support the creation of a mechanism to follow up on its implementation.

That agreement was finalized on June 4, 2001, at the Thirty-First regular session of the OAS General Assembly, held in San José, Costa Rica, which approved the Mechanism for Follow-up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) in the terms set out in the document known as the "Report of Buenos Aires on the Mechanism for Follow-up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption,"⁶ which arose from the Conference of States Parties of the IACAC held in the Argentine capital on May 2 to 4, 2001.

⁶ The text of this document is available at: www.oas.org/juridico/english/doc_buenos_aires_en.pdf.

OAS STATES PARTIES OF THE IACAC AND THE MESICIC:

STATES PARTIES			IACAC	MESICIC
1		Antigua & Barbuda		
2		Argentina		
3		Bahamas		
4		Barbados		
5		Belize		
6		Bolivia		
7		Brazil		
8		Canada		
9		Chile		
10		Colombia		
11		Costa Rica		
12		Dominica		
13		Dominican Republic		
14		Ecuador		
15		El Salvador		
16		Grenada		
17		Guatemala		
18		Guyana		
19		Haiti		
20		Honduras		
21		Jamaica		
22		Mexico		
23		Nicaragua		
24		Panama		
25		Paraguay		
26		Peru		
27		Saint Kitts & Nevis		
28		Saint Lucia		
29		Saint Vincent & the Grenadines		
30		Suriname		
31		Trinidad & Tobago		
32		United States		
33		Uruguay		
34		Venezuela		

 States Parties of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC)

 States Parties of the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC)

II. FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM OF THE CONVENTION (MESICIC)

The MESICIC is an instrument for horizontal cooperation among its Member States, and accordingly its goal is to provide mutual assistance for the implementation of the IACAC; to follow up on the commitments made by the States Parties to the Convention and to study how they are being implemented; and to facilitate technical cooperation activities, the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices, and the harmonization of the legislation of the States Parties.

2.2 AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL MECHANISM IN LINE WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE OAS

The MESICIC is an instrument for horizontal cooperation among its member states, and accordingly its goal is to provide mutual assistance for the implementation of the IACAC.

In addition, the MESICIC operates under the aegis of the goals and principles of the OAS Charter and it abides by principles such as sovereignty, nonintervention, and the juridical equality of States; similarly, although it is intergovernmental in nature, it allows for the opinions of civil society to be heard.

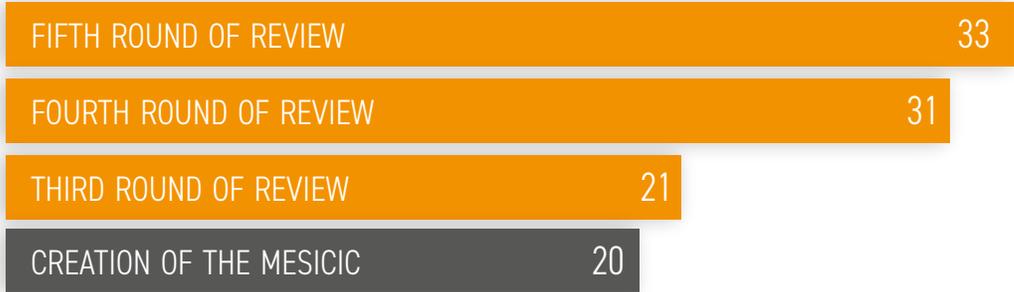
It is characterized by impartiality and objectivity in its operations and in the conclusions it reaches, and by the absence of sanctions. This serves to ensure its seriousness and underscores the fact that its goal is not to assess or classify the participating States, but to strengthen cooperation among them in their efforts against the common enemy of corruption.

2.3 AN EXPANDING MECHANISM

When the “Document of Buenos Aires” was adopted on June 4, 2001, 20 States Parties to the IACAC joined the MESICIC by signing said Document. In its Third Round of Review, 28 States Parties were participating in the Mechanism and by the Fourth, with the addition of Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti and Saint Kitts and Nevis, this number increased to 31. During the Fifth Round of Review, Saint Lucia and Dominica also joined, bringing this number to 33, demonstrating the increased interest by the States Parties of the IACAC in joining this instrument of cooperation.

The following chart demonstrates the increase in participation by the States Parties of the IACAC to the Mechanism, from its creation to the Fifth Round of Review:

PARTICIPATION BY THE STATES PARTIES OF THE IACAC TO THE MECHANISM:



NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES

2.4 COMPOSITION

The MESICIC comprises of the Conference of the States Parties, which has general responsibility for implementing the mechanism, and the Committee of Experts, which is described in the following section of this Report. Support for the MESICIC's activities is given, in accordance with the Report of Buenos Aires, by the OAS General Secretariat, which provides the Mechanism with technical secretariat services through the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs.

III. THE MESICIC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

3.1 A TECHNICAL BODY MADE UP OF EXPERTS TO ASSIST STATES IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION AND FOLLOWING UP ON ITS COMMITMENTS



The MESICIC Committee of Experts is the mechanism's technical body and is responsible for the technical review of how the States Parties implement the Convention's provisions.

The Committee is comprised of experts on fighting corruption, appointed by each of the Mechanism's States Parties. Their professional training, background and direct and practical understanding of the different topics covered by the Convention ensures a rigorous review and pertinent recommendations.

To take maximum advantage of the Committee's work, a set of Rules of Procedure adopted by its members govern the essential aspects of its organization and duties – such as its functions; the powers of its Chair, Vice Chair, and Technical Secretariat; the adoption of its decisions; the selection of the Convention provisions for review in each round and the procedure used for that review; and participation by civil society in its activities.⁷

31st Meeting of the MESICIC Committee of Experts.
September 2018, Washington D.C.

For its technical review of how the MESICIC States Parties have implemented the provisions of the Convention, the Committee conducts a process of reciprocal or mutual evaluation among the States, in successive “rounds.” During these rounds the States review the way in which they are implementing the IACAC provisions selected for review in each round and – in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, a methodology, a questionnaire, and a uniform structure – they adopt country reports in which each State receives specific recommendations for covering the regulatory shortcomings detected and for resolving any inadequacies found. The reports also contain indicators for the objective determination of results so the States can identify challenges and adopt the necessary corrective measures.

⁷ The Rules of Procedure is available at: www.oas.org/juridico/PDFs/mesicic4_rules_en.pdf.

The Committee is comprised of experts on fighting corruption, appointed by each of the mechanism's States Parties.

In addition to this, the Committee is responsible for the important task of reviewing the progress made by the MESICIC States Parties in implementing the recommendations formulated to them in earlier rounds.

3.2 A FORUM FOR PROMOTING THE EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG STATES

The Committee of Experts has consolidated its position as the ideal forum for pursuing the goals of the MESICIC of facilitating technical cooperation activities, exchanges of information, experiences, and that of best practices among its Member States. This has been carried out by including, among its activities, the examination of topics of collective interest that the States have been utilizing in order to share their best practices in the different areas addressed by the Convention.

(...) since the start of the fourth round the countries have had new forums for exchanging best practices.

It should be noted that under the Methodology for Conducting On-site Visits, adopted by the Committee of Experts at its Eighteenth Meeting in March 2011, since the start of the Fourth Round, the countries have a new forum for exchanging best practices, as well as their difficulties and technical assistance needs, and for requesting or benefiting from technical cooperation, which is consistent with the MESICIC's purpose as an instrument for horizontal cooperation among its Member States.

IV. BROAD CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN THE MESICIC

As already noted, although the MESICIC is intergovernmental in nature, it is also empowered to hear the opinions of civil society. Thus, since its inception, the Committee of Experts has encouraged the participation of civil society organizations in its activities and, pursuant to Chapter V (Articles 33 to 36) of its Rules of Procedure, it has provided them with a forum for that participation.

Those provisions afford civil society with broad possibilities for participation. For example, they may present specific proposals to be considered in determining important matters such as the Convention articles to be reviewed in a given round, the methodology to be used for this review, and the questionnaire to be applied to gather the necessary information.

They can also submit specific and direct information on the questions contained in the questionnaire on the implementation by a given State Party of the provisions selected for review in a round, and on the implementation of recommendations formulated in previous rounds.

These documents, provided they are submitted in the timeframes and fashion indicated in the Rules of Procedure, can also be presented in person by the organizations at the informal meetings that the Committee of Experts holds prior to the commencement of its formal sessions.

(...) an analysis conducted by the u4 anti-corruption resource centre found that the mesicic was the mechanism that “contains the strongest formal requirements on civil society participation.”

During the Fifth Round, documents were received from various civil society organizations on the implementation of the Convention provision selected for that Round by a country and of the recommendations that were formulated to them in the Second Round.⁸ Those organizations are listed in Annex I of this Report.

The documents received within the timeframe and conditions imposed by the Rules of Procedure were distributed among the members of the corresponding preliminary review subgroups, the States Parties undergoing review, and all other members of the Committee. In addition, these organizations were able to make presentations before the Committee, upon acceptance of the Committee's invitation to do so, and were considered in the deliberations of the meetings. Moreover, the comments contained in them deemed relevant by the Committee of Experts were incorporated into its reports.

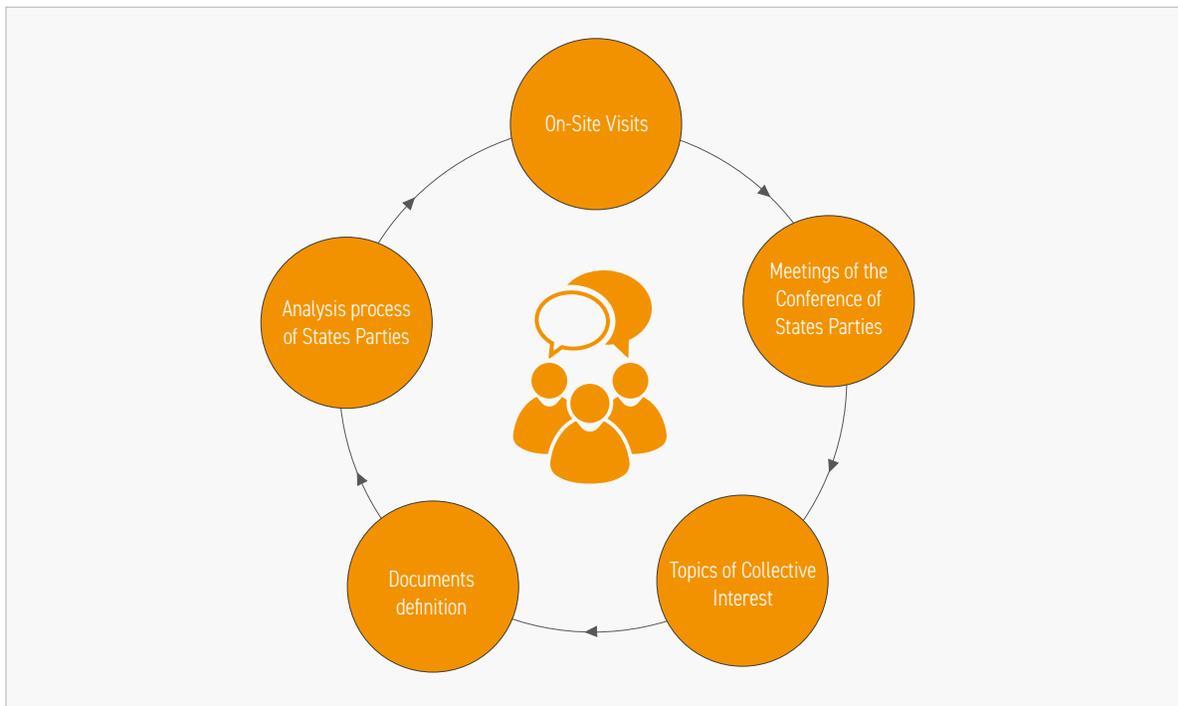
⁸ These documents are available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/sla/dlc/mesicic/sociedad-civil.html>.

It should be noted that at the Third Meeting of the Conference of States Parties of the MESICIC, held in Brasilia in December 2010, it was recommended that the Committee of Experts consider adopting measures to promote a broader and more diverse participation by civil society organizations in the activities of the MESICIC.

In line with that recommendation, the Methodology for Conducting On-site Visits provided new opportunities for participation by such organizations, including those from the private sector, professional associations, academics, and researchers. Very good use was made of those opportunities during the on-site visits made during the Fifth Round, as can be seen in the section of Chapter VI of this Report that refers to those visits.

This gave an impetus for civil society participation in the activities of the MESICIC Committee of Experts, reflecting its willingness to promote the use of an increasingly broad opportunity of participation made available to different social actors. On this point, it should be noted that an analysis conducted by the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre found that the MESICIC was the mechanism that “contains the strongest formal requirements on civil society participation.”

The opportunities for participation by civil society in the MESICIC are represented in the following graph:



V. THE FIFTH ROUND OF REVIEW

5.1 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE APPROACH TAKEN IN THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FORMULATED IN THE SECOND ROUND AND IN THE REVIEW OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION SELECTED FOR THAT ROUND

With regard to the follow-up of recommendations, in the Methodology for the Fifth Round, the Committee adopted the same criteria as that expressed at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the MESICIC States Parties. In this respect, the Committee agreed that, in the Fifth Round, it would follow-up on the recommendations formulated in the Second Round which were deemed to require additional attention in the reports of the Third Round. This would include the consideration of any new and relevant information or developments that would allow the Committee to determine whether the recommendations and measures suggested in the reports of the Second Round were still valid and, with regard to those deemed still valid, to assess whether the State has given them satisfactory consideration or whether additional attention is required or, when applicable, to restate or reformulate them.

Chapter VIII of this Report shows the outcomes of the follow-up to the recommendations of the Second Round.

Additionally, the Committee stipulated in the aforementioned Methodology that the new developments of States in relation to the provisions of the IACAC for the Second Round are to be reviewed, taking into account the legal framework, technological developments, and results, and for which, relevant observations and recommendations are to be made.

Chapter VII summarizes the findings of the review of new developments in countries with respect to the provisions of the IACAC selected for the Second Round, as reflected in the recommendations of the Committee.

The importance of the above-mentioned decisions of the Committee stems not only from the more in-depth follow-up to its Second Round recommendations, but also from the updated review of implementation of the provisions of the IACAC selected for that Round, two of which (the hiring of public servants and government procurement of works, goods, and services) are vital for efforts to prevent corruption, while the remaining two (criminalization of acts of corruption and protection for those who report them) are essential for ensuring that those who commit such acts do not go unpunished.

(...) the committee reviewed 94 government hiring systems in the states parties to the MESICIC.

One notable outcome is that the Committee reviewed 94 government hiring systems in the States Parties to the MESICIC. The following Table lists the government hiring systems reviewed in each country:

GOVERNMENT HIRING SYSTEMS REVIEWED	
 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch 	 ARGENTINA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Executive Branch • National Legislative Branch • The National Judiciary • National Public Prosecutors' Office
 BAHAMAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Judiciary 	 BELIZE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Judiciary • Legislative Branch
 BOLIVIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Branch • Executive Branch • Judiciary • National Public Prosecutors' Office 	 BRAZIL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Judiciary • Legislative Branch • Public Prosecution Service
 CANADA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Legislative Branch • Judiciary 	 CHILE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic • Legislative Branch • Executive Branch • Judiciary

 COLOMBIA	 COSTA RICA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Legislative Branch • Judiciary • Office of the Attorney General (FGN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Legislative Branch • Judiciary • Public Prosecution Service • Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic
 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	 ECUADOR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch – Public Administration • Legislative Branch • Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Legislative Branch • Judiciary • Public Prosecution Service
 EL SALVADOR	 GRENADA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Legislative Branch • Judiciary • Municipalities • Court of Accounts of the Republic • Office of the Attorney General 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General System for Hiring Public Servants
 GUATEMALA	 GUYANA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Legislative Branch • Judiciary • Public Prosecution Service • Municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Judiciary • Legislative Branch

 HAITI	 HONDURAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Administration of the State (National Executive Branch) • Legislative Branch • Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Legislative Branch • Judiciary • Public Prosecution Service • Superior Court of Accounts
 JAMAICA	 MEXICO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Executive Branch • Federal Legislative Branch • Federal Judicial Branch
 NICARAGUA	 PANAMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Judicial Branch • Municipalities • Public Prosecution Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Legislative Branch • Judiciary
 PARAGUAY	 PERU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Public Prosecution Service • Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Legislative Branch • Judiciary
 SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	 SAINT LUCIA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch
 ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	 SURINAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch



UNITED STATES

- Executive Branch



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- Executive Branch
- Judiciary



URUGUAY

- Executive Branch
- Legislative Branch
- Judiciary
- Court of Accounts

(...) 37 systems of government procurement of works, goods, and services in states parties to the MESICIC.

Another notable outcome is that the Committee reviewed 37 systems of government procurement of works, goods, and services in States Parties to the MESICIC. The following Table lists the government procurement systems reviewed in each country:

SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT	
 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	 ARGENTINA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Executive Branch • National Legislative Branch • The National Judiciary • National Public Prosecutors' Office
 BAHAMAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	 BELIZE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems
 BOLIVIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	 BRAZIL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems
 CANADA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	 CHILE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems
 COLOMBIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	 COSTA RICA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems

 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	 ECUADOR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems
 EL SALVADOR	 GRENADA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems
 GUATEMALA	 GUYANA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems
 HAITI	 HONDURAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems
 JAMAICA	 MEXICO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Executive Branch • Federal Legislative Branch • Federal Judicial Branch
 NICARAGUA	 PANAMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems
 PARAGUAY	 PERU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems
 SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	 SAINT LUCIA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems

 ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	 SURINAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems
 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	 UNITED STATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems under the Law on the Procurement and Disposal of Government-owned Property of 2015 • Government procurement systems under the Law of the Central Tenders Board, Chapter 71:91 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems
 URUGUAY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government procurement systems 	

5.2 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REVIEW OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION SELECTED FOR THE FIFTH ROUND

The Committee selected Article III, paragraphs 3 and 12, as the provisions to be reviewed in the Fifth Round. These correspond, respectively, to “instruction to government personnel to ensure proper understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical rules governing their activities” and “the study of further preventive measures that take into account the relationship between equitable compensation and probity in public service.”

To that end, bearing in mind that in the States Parties to the MESICIC there are numerous government entities, the Committee first set out in the Methodology adopted for the Fifth Round that each country should select up to three personnel groups from its branches of government or public agencies at the national/federal level that, because of their majority position or because of the importance of their functions, are deemed to be prominent and deserving of review for the purpose set out in Article III, paragraph 3, of the Convention, which deals with giving instructions to government personnel for the proper understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical rules governing their activities.

Second, with regard to Article III, paragraph 12 of the Convention, the Committee would review whether the State Parties have studied preventive measures that take into account the relationship between equitable compensation and probity in public service and whether they have established objective and transparent criteria for determining the compensation of public servants.

The importance of reviewing the aforementioned provisions of the IACAC stems from the fact that, to prevent corruption, it is vital that public servants are fully aware of their responsibilities and of the ethic duties associated with them and that their compensation be based on objective and transparent criteria.

(...) the committee reviewed 72 groups of personnel in the states parties to the MESICIC on the manner instructions are provided for understanding their responsibilities and ethical rules.

In this regard, it is worth noting that the Committee reviewed 72 groups of personnel in the States Parties to the MESICIC on the manner instructions are provided for understanding their responsibilities and ethical rules. The following Table lists the personnel groups reviewed in each country:

GROUPS OF PERSONNEL REVIEWED	
 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Division of the Ministry of Social Transformation 	 ARGENTINA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Public Administration • Anti-Corruption Office • Federal Public Revenue Administration
 BAHAMAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Finance • Department of Public Service 	 BELIZE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of the Public Service

 BOLIVIA	 BRAZIL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Economy and Public Finance • State School for Judges • Office of the Comptroller General 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Comptroller General of the Union • Senior officials of the Federal Public Administration and members of its ethics committees
 CANADA	 CHILE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat • Public Service Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Directorate of the Civil Service (DNSC) • Public Prosecution Service Government Procurement Directorate (ChileCompra)
 COLOMBIA	 COSTA RICA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Service Administrative Department • Transparency Secretariat of the Office of the President of the Republic • Colombia Compra Eficiente 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Legislative Branch • Judiciary
 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	 ECUADOR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Branch • Legislative Branch • Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Public Procurement System • State Oil and Gas Enterprise • Judicial Academy of the Judiciary Council
 EL SALVADOR	 GRENADA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Ethics Tribunal • Court of Accounts of the Republic • Access to Public Information Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity Commission • Judiciary • Audit Department

 GUATEMALA	 GUYANA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Civil Service Office (ONSEC) • Legislative Branch • Judiciary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Public Service • National Procurement and Tender Administration
 HAITI	 HONDURAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directorate General of Budget (DGB) • Directorate General of Customs (AGD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directorate General of the Civil Service (DGSC) • Presidential Office for Transparency, Modernization, and State Reform • Superior Court of Accounts
 JAMAICA	 MEXICO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Services Commission • Jamaica Constabulary Force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Executive Branch • Federal Legislative Branch • Federal Judicial Branch
 NICARAGUA	 PANAMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic • Ministry of the Treasury and Public Credit • Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Directorate of the Administrative Career • Public Procurement General Directorate • Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic
 PARAGUAY	 PERU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Service Secretariat • Public Prosecution Service • Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Justice and Human Rights • National Customs and Tax Administration Superintendency

 SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	 SAINT LUCIA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources Management Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public servants in general
 ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	 SURINAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Division of the Service Commissions Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suriname Police Force/ "Korps Politie Suriname • Ministry of the Interior
 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	 UNITED STATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Agency Ethics Officials • Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Officials
 URUGUAY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Social Security Agency • Court of Accounts • National Tax Authority 	

5.3 SPECIAL REVIEW OF THE LATEST STATES TO JOIN THE MESICIC

With respect to Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, which joined the MESICIC at the start of the Fourth Round, and Saint Lucia, which joined as the Fifth Round was in progress, a review was carried out in those countries with respect to the implementation of the provisions selected for the Second and Fifth Rounds. The review of Dominica, which also joined as the Fifth Round was in progress, was postponed for reasons of force majeure.

With this, the Committee complied with the terms of Article 28 of its Rules of Procedure, which requires that when new States join the Mechanism, they are to be reviewed with respect to the implementation of both the provisions examined in previous rounds and those that are being reviewed as part of the round currently underway at the time of their incorporation.

5.4 THE REVIEW PROCESS

The review process conducted by the MESICIC Committee of Experts ensures impartiality and objectivity in its operations, characteristics conferred on it by the Report of Buenos Aires. It is regulated by the Rules of Procedure and is carried out in accordance with decisions previously adopted by the Committee to produce a thorough review and with results that are suited for the formulation of concrete recommendations that will be of use to the countries. Those decisions are reflected in a questionnaire designed to gather information from the States,⁹ a review methodology,¹⁰ the determination of the order in which the States are reviewed, and the composition of the review subgroups, using a method that ensures impartiality in the selection of the States that make up those subgroups. The sequence of review for the Fourth Round is found in the following table:



Suriname's On-Site Visit. 5th Round of Review, September 2018

⁹ Available at: www.oas.org/juridico/docs/cuest_IVronda_en.doc.

¹⁰ Available at: www.oas.org/juridico/PDFs/metod_IVronda_en.pdf.

The sequence of review for the Fourth Round is found in the following table:

* This sequence was adjusted in accordance with decisions taken by the Committee at its 26th, 27th, 28th, and 31st Meetings, held at OAS headquarters on March 7-11 and September 12-15, 2016, March 13-17, 2017, and September 10-13, 2018, respectively.

GROUP 1

 Bolivia **	26 th Meeting	March 7-11, 2016
 Uruguay **		
 Paraguay		
 Peru		

** States that volunteered to be reviewed at the beginning of the Round.

GROUP 2

 Costa Rica	27 th Meeting	September 12-15, 2016
 Ecuador		
 Mexico		
 Honduras		

GROUP 3

 Argentina	28 th Meeting	March 13-17, 2017
 Panama		
 Chile		
 El Salvador		

GROUP 4

 Colombia	29 th Meeting	September 12-15, 2017
 Dominican Republic		
 Canada		

GROUP 5

 Grenada	30 th Meeting	March 12-15, 2018
 Brazil		
 Guyana		
 Jamaica		

GROUP 6

 Suriname	31 st Meeting	September 10-13, 2018
 The Bahamas		
 Belize		

GROUP 7

 United States	32 nd Meeting	March 11-14, 2019
 Antigua and Barbuda		
 Haiti		
 Saint Kitts and Nevis		

GROUP 8

 Guatemala	33 rd Meeting	September 9-12, 2019
 Trinidad and Tobago		
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		

GROUP 9

 Saint Lucia	34 th Meeting	March 9-12, 2020
 Nicaragua		

THE COMPOSITION OF THE REVIEW SUBGROUPS IS SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE*

		Country under review	Member States of the Review Subgroup	
GROUP 1	1	Bolivia	Honduras	Jamaica
	2	Uruguay	Ecuador	United States
	3	Paraguay	Dominican Republic	Guyana
	4	Peru	Mexico	Nicaragua
GROUP 2	5	Costa Rica	Panama	Dominican Republic
	6	Ecuador	Guatemala	Suriname
	7	Mexico	Brazil	Haiti
	8	Honduras	Antigua and Barbuda	Argentina
GROUP 3	9	Argentina	Brazil	Nicaragua
	10	Panama	Canada	Colombia
	11	Chile	Grenada	Haiti
	12	El Salvador	Bolivia	Guyana
GROUP 4	13	Colombia	Mexico	Paraguay
	14	Dominican Republic	Bolivia	Uruguay
	15	Canada	El Salvador	Saint Kitts and Nevis
GROUP 5	16	Grenada	Suriname	United States
	17	Brazil	El Salvador	Venezuela
	18	Guyana	Belize	The Bahamas
	19	Jamaica	Colombia	Trinidad and Tobago
GROUP 6	20	Suriname	Guatemala	Paraguay
	21	The Bahamas	Costa Rica	Trinidad and Tobago
	22	Belize	Grenada	Venezuela

THE COMPOSITION OF THE REVIEW SUBGROUPS IS SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE*

		Country under review	Member States of the Review Subgroup	
GROUP 7	23	United States	Costa Rica	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
	24	Antigua and Barbuda	Jamaica	Peru
	25	Haiti	Argentina	Panama
	26	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Ecuador	The Bahamas
GROUP 8	27	Guatemala	Chile	Honduras
	28	Trinidad and Tobago	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Belize
	29	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Antigua and Barbuda	Canada
GROUP 9	30	Saint Lucia	Antigua and Barbuda	Belize
	31	Nicaragua	Chile	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

* This composition of the review subgroups was adjusted in accordance with decisions taken by the Committee at its 26th, 27th, 28th, and 31st Meetings, held at OAS headquarters on March 7-11 and September 12-15, 2016, March 13-17, 2017, and September 10-13, 2018, respectively.

The review process can be fully appreciated in the following flowchart:



5.5 ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO CONDUCT THE REVIEW

The review process entails activities that involve all the experts who sit on the Committee and who, in that capacity, make up the review subgroups established for each country. It also involves the Mechanism's Technical Secretariat, which provides support for those activities to take place.

The experts who represent each country on the Committee play a very important role: not only as regards the decisions they are called upon to adopt in that capacity for the development of each round of review, as described in section 5.4 of this Report, but also in terms of their activities related to the preparation of their countries' responses to the questionnaire, their States' consent for on-site visits as well as the organization and support for those visits. Their important role also arises from their position as members of at least two review subgroups, such as approving the agenda for on-site visits and the draft preliminary reports on the countries examined by their subgroups, which are then referred to the Committee's plenary session, during which they participate actively, in conjunction with the other members of the Committee, in discussing and approving those reports.



Brazil's On-Site Visit, 5th Round of Review.

In accordance with the Committee's Rules of Procedure, the Technical Secretariat is responsible for preparing and compiling the preliminary draft reports for each country. To carry out that task in connection with the preliminary draft reports from the Fifth Round, following the methodologies for the review process and for conducting on-site visits adopted by the Committee, the Technical Secretariat first reviewed the information provided in the responses to the questionnaire and in the comments submitted by civil society organizations, following the order determined by the Committee for reviewing the States, and then drew up the draft agendas for the on-site visits to those States that would be receiving visits, given that one of the purposes of that exercise is to obtain additional information.

It should be noted that these draft agendas, in addition to setting out in detail the topics to be addressed during the on-site visit, include provisions to ensure that the visit involves officials who, by reason of their direct and practical knowledge of those topics, are ideal for providing the information needed, and to ensure the active participation of representatives of civil society organizations and of the private sector, professional associations, academics, and researchers.

Second, the Technical Secretariat proceeded to review the information gathered through these methods,¹¹ in consideration of the legal and institutional framework of each State, and to prepare the draft preliminary reports for each country.

As regards follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations formulated to the countries in the Second Round, the draft preliminary reports review the progress, information, and new developments reported by the countries in connection with those recommendations, and they make proposals regarding which of them the Committee can deem to have been satisfactorily addressed, which have seen progress but still require additional attention, which are no longer applicable as a result of circumstances such as changes in a country's legal and institutional framework, and which should be restated or reformulated to bring them into line with the changes detected. Additionally, new recommendations were made, when appropriate, taking into account new developments and results.

With respect to government personnel reviewed in the Fifth Round, on the manner they receive instructions to ensure proper understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical rules that govern their activities, a summarized description of their legal frameworks is provided, a review of whether those legal frameworks are suited to the purposes of the Convention is carried out, and a determination is made on whether there are objective results that would allow their effectiveness to be established. Finally, conclusions are made, and, where necessary, specific recommendations are formulated to remedy shortcomings or to adjust detected inadequacies.

Finally, regarding the study of preventive measures that take into account the relationship between equitable compensation and probity in the public service, in the draft preliminary reports, in addition to determining if these studies have been carried out, a review is made on whether objective and transparent criteria for determining this compensation has been established, and, where necessary, specific recommendations are formulated in this respect.

11 As a result of the large and diverse number of personnel groups that were reviewed in the Fifth Round, regarding instructions provided to them in order to ensure the proper understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical rules governing their activities, as well as the branches of government and/or public agencies with respect to the systems of government hiring and public procurement, an extensive volume of information was gathered, comprising numerous legal provisions of different kinds and documents with multidisciplinary content. As a result, the Technical Secretariat spent an average of two months preparing the Draft Preliminary Reports following the corresponding on-site visits, the organization of which also required a considerable amount of time.

5.6 THE MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE DURING THE FIFTH ROUND

The main activities carried out by the Committee during the Fifth Round of Review can be summarized as follows:

A. ADOPTION OF COUNTRY REPORTS CORRESPONDING TO 31 STATES PARTIES TO THE MESICIC

These reports were adopted by the Committee at half-yearly meetings held during the Fifth Round (8 in all, from the Twenty-Sixth to the Thirty-Fourth meetings of the Committee). Following the previously established order for the review, these meetings considered the following country reports: at the Twenty-Sixth Meeting (from March 7-11, 2016), Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Peru; at the Twenty-Seventh Meeting (from September 12-15, 2016), Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, and Honduras; at the Twenty-Eighth Meeting (from March 13-17, 2017), Argentina, Panama, Chile, and El Salvador; at the Twenty-Ninth Meeting (from September 11-14, 2017), Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Canada; at the Thirtieth Meeting (from March 12-15, 2018), Grenada, Guyana, Brazil, and Jamaica; at the Thirty-First Meeting (from September 10-13, 2018), The Bahamas, Suriname, and Belize; at the Thirty-Second Meeting (from March 11-14, 2019), the United States, Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti and Saint Kitts and Nevis; at the Thirty-Third Meeting (from September 9-12, 2019), Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and at the Thirty-Fourth Meeting (from March 9-12, 2020) Nicaragua and Saint Lucia.



Meeting during the on-site visit to Saint Kitts and Nevis. 5th Round of Review. October 2018.

A Table in Section 5.4 of this Report sets out the sequence of country reviews, as per the foregoing paragraph.

B. A TOTAL OF 29 ON-SITE COUNTRY VISITS WERE CONDUCTED TO STATES PARTIES TO THE MESICIC.

Those on-site visits, which will be referred to in greater detail in Chapter VI of this Report, were carried out in 29 States Parties to the MESICIC that assented to them, as per provision 5 of the Methodology for On-Site Visits adopted by the Committee.¹²

C. CONSIDERATION OF TOPICS OF COLLECTIVE INTEREST

¹² As noted in Section I of the country reports adopted by the Committee with regard to Nicaragua and Saint Lucia in the Fifth Round, corresponding to "SUMMARY OF INFORMATION RECEIVED," those States did not grant their consent to an on-site visit in that Round.

A number of important activities were carried out regarding topics of collective interest by the Committee, as follows:

- TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

- » Representatives of the organizations Trace International, Financial Transparency Coalition and Ethics Compliance and Initiative (ECI) delivered presentations on the responsibility of the private sector in preventing and combating corruption.
- » Representatives of the organizations International Anti-Corruption Resource Center (IACRC) and the Open Contracting Partnership offered a presentation on prevention and combating of corruption in government procurement.

- TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

- » The delegation of Colombia gave a presentation on the Global Anti-Corruption Summit held in London in May 2016 and invited the States to read and give due consideration to the recommendations made at that meeting.

- TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

- » The delegations of Brazil and Peru gave presentations on the subject of “the Responsibility of the Private Sector in Preventing and Combating Corruption.”

- TWENTY-NINTH MEETING

- » Representatives of the Inter-American Dialogue and the International Monetary Fund gave presentations on studies they have conducted on preventing and combating corruption.
- » Representatives of the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank gave presentations on investigations and punishment of acts of corruption in projects financed by those two multilateral banks.
- » Representatives of the OAS General Secretariat and of the World Bank gave presentations on transparency in government procurement.

• THIRTIETH MEETING

- » The delegation of Argentina gave a presentation on apparent conflicts of interest in government procurement in Argentina.
- » The delegation of Bolivia gave a presentation on the Transparency, Prevention, and Anti-Corruption Information System (SITPRECO).
- » The delegation of Colombia gave a presentation on indicators regarding implementation of international anti-corruption conventions.

• THIRTY-FIRST MEETING

- » Representatives of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), the Anti-Corruption Program at American University, and the OAS School of Governance gave presentations on training opportunities on matters related to preventing and combating corruption.
- » Representatives of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the United Nations, the MESICIC, the Secretariat for Public Ethics, Transparency and Combating Corruption in the Anti-Corruption Office of the Argentine Republic, and the Chair of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, gave presentations on international anti-corruption mechanisms.

• THIRTY-SECOND MEETING

- » One of the participants who helped develop ISO Standard 37001 on anti-bribery management systems gave a presentation on the nature and purposes of that standard.
- » An IDB representative gave a presentation on the document “Conflict of Interest: Challenges and Opportunities to Implement an Effective System.”

• THIRTY-THIRD MEETING

- » Representatives of the Department for Public Management of the OAS General Secretariat and of the Open Government Partnership gave presentations on progress made with open government and on the tools available for making headway with the quest for greater integrity and transparency in government.



Panel of representatives from the OECD, GRECO, UN, the MESICIC, and the G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, during the 31st Meeting of the MESICIC Committee of Experts.

• THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING PENDIENTE

» A representative of the Department of International Law of the OAS General Secretariat made a presentation on the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Information and a representative of the Department of Legal Cooperation of the OAS General Secretariat made a presentation on the First Forum of Representatives of the Judiciary on Cooperation against Corruption that was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in October 2019.

» Electronic versions of the presentations mentioned in the foregoing section were provided to the Technical Secretariat and are attached to the minutes of the meetings, in which the presentations were made. They are posted at: <https://www.oas.org/en/sla/dlc/mesicic/buenas-practicas.html>.

D. ADOPTION OF THE METHODOLOGY FOR THE PRESENTATION OF BEST PRACTICES ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION

At the Thirtieth Meeting, the Committee adopted a methodology for the presentation by States on best practices for preventing and combating corruption; their compilation and dissemination via the MESICIC website; promoting their use; and information regarding States willing to receive and share technical assistance with their implementation. That methodology, which will be examined in greater detail in Chapter X of this Report, may be consulted at the following link: <https://www.oas.org/en/sla/dlc/mesicic/buenas-practicas.html>.

E. ADOPTION OF THE HEMISPHERIC REPORT ON THE FIFTH ROUND OF REVIEW

At its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, the Committee adopted the Hemispheric Report on the Fifth Round of Review, in accordance with Article 29 of its Rules of Procedure.

F. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS NECESSARY TO BEGIN THE SIXTH ROUND OF REVIEW

At its Thirty-Third Meeting, the Committee selected the provisions of the Convention to be reviewed during the Sixth Round and, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, took the other decisions necessary for that Round, including: the methodology to be used to review the implementation of those provisions; the questionnaire for gathering the data needed for that review; the structure of the country reports; an impartial method for establishing the dates for reviewing the information of each State Party; and the composition of the corresponding review subgroups.

G. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS ON PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MESICIC

These reports were submitted to the Committee by the States Parties to the MESICIC at the Twenty-Sixth, Twenty-Eighth, Thirtieth, Thirty-Second, and Thirty-Fourth meetings and concern the me-

asures adopted by those States between the first meeting of the previous year and the first meeting of the following year, in relation to the recommendations of the Committee and other progress made in implementing the Convention, as required by the Rules of Procedure. These progress reports are found, along with the country reports, at the following link: <http://www.oas.org/en/sla/dlc/mesicic/paises-home.html>

5.7 COUNTRY REPORTS

A. CHARACTERISTICS

The content of the country reports adopted by the Committee, in respect of the 27 States Parties to the MESICIC that have participated since its inception in 2002 and reviewed in the Fifth Round,¹³ present the following characteristics with respect to the sections dealing with the follow-up on implementation of the recommendations made to those States in the Second Round; the review of new developments with regard to the provisions of the IACAC related to those recommendations; and to implementation of the provisions of the IACAC selected for review in the Fifth Round:

- **UNIFORM STRUCTURE:** the Committee decided that all the reports must have the same structure, thereby upholding the principle of the juridical equality of states referred to in the Report of Buenos Aires and the guideline of equal treatment stipulated by the review methodology. Consequently, they all follow the same order of chapters and sections and address the same topics, while not failing to take into account the particularities of the legal and institutional framework of the States.
- **SOURCES OF INFORMATION:** based on the sources of information previously defined in the Rules of Procedure and the review methodology, comprising the responses given by the States Parties to the Committee's questionnaire, the comments from civil society organizations submitted in accordance with the established terms, the information obtained during the on-site visits, and other information gathered by the Technical Secretariat or by the members of the Committee.
- **DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING INFORMATION:** grounded on the information furnished prior to the deadline set by the Committee in timetables indicating the dates for countries to respond to the questionnaire and for civil society organizations to submit their observations, together with the information gathered by the Technical Secretariat and members of the Committee and that collected during the on-site visits, in the established terms.
- **TERMINOLOGY:** use of phrases in accordance with the scope of the commitments assumed by the States under the Convention provision being reviewed, and in accordance with the aims of the

13 The review of Venezuela was postponed for reasons of force majeure.

Follow-up Mechanism: the tone, style, and vocabulary used in the review of that provision's implementation, in the conclusions reached, and in the recommendations issued obey those commitments and aims, and the same applies as regards the follow-up of the recommendations formulated to the countries during the Second Round.

Accordingly, as regards the scope of the commitment assumed by the States Parties in connection with the provisions contained in Article III, paragraphs 3 and 12 of the Convention that were reviewed in the Fifth Round, regarding, respectively, measures to create, maintain, and strengthen instructions to government personnel to ensure proper understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical rules governing their activities and the study of other preventive measures that take into account the relationship between equitable compensation and probity in public service, the focus is on the State's commitment to consider the applicability of related measures. Thus, the formulated recommendations make reference to the scope of this commitment, that is, States are to consider them.

Consideration was also given to the fact that the Committee believes that the ultimate goal of the Mechanism is to facilitate cooperation among the States Parties to promote compliance with the Convention and to ensure that it is implemented and enforced. For that reason, the section on following up on the implementation of the recommendations formulated during the Second Round uses wording that is in line with that goal, such as noting the satisfactory consideration of recommendations, identifying those where progress was made but that require additional attention, and, when applicable, those that are no longer current due to such circumstances as changes in the country's legal and institutional framework and those that required reformulation to bring them into line with the changes detected.

• **ADOPTION BY CONSENSUS:** The Committee approved all its reports on a consensus basis, and so their contents reflect the results of the agreements reached by its members during the report discussions.

With respect to Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, which joined the MESICIC at the start of the Fourth Round, and Saint Lucia, which joined as the Fifth Round was in progress,¹⁴ their respective country reports have the same characteristics as those adopted with regard to other States in respect of the section corresponding to the provisions of the Convention selected for review in the Fifth Round. Regarding the provisions of the Convention selected for review in the Second Round, as those States were not parties to the MESICIC in that Round, the implementation review was carried out under the same criteria as that adopted by the Committee for that Round.

¹⁴ With respect to Dominica, which also joined during the progress of the Fifth Round, its review was postponed for reasons of force majeure. For this reason, a country report was not adopted in the Fifth Round.

B. GENERAL CONTENT

1. REGARDING THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE SECOND ROUND AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THEM:

- » Following the order of the recommendations made to each of the 27 States Parties to the MESICIC that have participated since its inception in 2002, and were reviewed in the Fifth Round,¹⁵ the reports examine whether these recommendations remain valid. In this respect, a review is made to determine if they have not been affected by changes in the legal-institutional order of the State concerned, and, if they have, a reformulation is made in response to those changes.
- » They note the satisfactory consideration of the recommendations when the actions undertaken by the corresponding State for their implementation have been reported to the Committee, summarizing the information related to those actions.
- » They also note, again following the order of the formulated recommendations, the steps reported by each State Party in progressing toward the implementation of those recommendations, indicating in this case the need for additional attention to be paid to them.
- » When applicable, they also note the absence of information on the implementation process and the need for such details to be provided.
- » They set out the difficulties encountered in the recommendation implementation process reported by the countries undergoing review, and they identify the domestic agencies involved in the process, when the States provide that information in accordance with the provisions contained in Article 29 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure.
- » One new aspect of the country reports adopted in the Fifth Round for the 27 States reviewed in the Fifth Round and that were parties to the MESICIC in the Second Round, is that, in addition to following up on the recommendations made to them in the Second Round, a review is made on the new developments with regard to the Convention provisions selected for that Round, bearing in mind such aspects as the legal framework, technological developments, and results, and put forward the corresponding observations and recommendations.

2. REGARDING THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION PROVISIONS SELECTED FOR THE FIFTH ROUND

- » They identify, inter alia, the principal legal norms and measures that serve as a basis for instructions to personnel in government entities to ensure proper understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical rules governing their activities, as well as to define objective and transparent guidelines for determining the compensation of public servants.

15 The review of Venezuela was postponed for reasons of force majeure.

- » They describe the adequacy of the aforementioned legal provisions and measures, as regards their relevance to the goals of the Convention provisions reviewed and, when necessary, they indicate shortcomings or areas for correction, improvement, or expansion in order to attain those objectives.
- » They identify results obtained from the instructions to personnel in government entities to ensure proper understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical rules governing their activities, based on the objective data gathered from the established sources of information and, should there be no such information for objectively establishing those results, they indicate that it would be useful for the countries to develop a system of indicators.
- » They formulate concrete recommendations intended to expand, rectify, or improve the legal norms and measures of a State with respect to the provisions of the Convention reviewed, in order to meet their objectives.
- » They allude to the best practices identified by States in respect of the reviewed provisions of the Convention.

3. IN THE SPECIFIC CASE OF THE LATEST STATES TO JOIN THE MESICIC

The general content of the country reports adopted by the Committee, in respect of the three States that joined the MESICIC as of its Fourth Round (Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, and Saint Kitts and Nevis) and one of the two that became States Parties to it in its Fifth Round (Saint Lucia),¹⁶ is the same as that found in reports adopted with regard to the other States in respect of the section corresponding to the provisions of the Convention selected for review in that Round. With regard to the provisions of the Convention reviewed in the Second Round, since those States were not parties to the MESICIC in that Round, what they contain is a review of their implementation in the following terms:

- » They identify the main legal norms and measures for implementing the Convention provisions that were examined during the Second Round, along with the mechanisms that exist for enforcing them.
- » They describe the adequacy of the legal norms, measures, and mechanisms as regards their relevance to the goals of the Convention provisions reviewed and, when necessary, they indicate shortcomings or areas for correction, improvement, or expansion in order to attain those objectives.

¹⁶ Concerning the other State that joined in the Fifth Round (Dominica), its review was postponed for reasons of force majeure, which is why no report was adopted on it in the Fifth Round.

- » They identify the results yielded by these legal norms, measures, and mechanisms, based on the objective data gathered from the established sources of information and, should there be no such information for objectively establishing those results, they indicate that it would be useful for the countries to develop a system of indicators.

- » They formulate recommendations intended to expand, rectify, or improve the reviewed countries' mechanisms for complying with the Convention provisions under review, indicating the steps they could take to implement those recommendations.

In addition, in all the country reports adopted in the Fifth Round, there is a brief summary of the content thereof, which facilitates a rapid appraisal of their most salient features. Attached to them, also, are the agendas of the on-site visits carried out, showing the topics addressed, the authorities that attended meetings, and the representatives of civil society organizations, the private sector, and professional organizations, and academics and researchers who participated.

VI. ON-SITE VISITS

The on-site visits make it possible to appraise “on the ground,” the actions that countries are taking to implement the Convention’s provisions and MESICIC’s recommendations. This allows the Committee to gather information in the States visited not only from the authorities of the States visited, but also from representatives of civil society organizations, the private sector, professional associations, academics, and researchers. This is carried out in accordance with a “Methodology for Conducting On-site Visits” adopted by the Committee.¹⁷

The on-site visits make it possible to appraise “on the ground,” the actions that countries are taking to implement the convention’s provisions and MESICIC’s recommendations.

A. OBJECTIVES

Provision 3 of that Methodology establishes five objectives for on-site visits, in the following order of priorities:

- Refine, clarify, or complement the information provided by the country under review in its response to the questionnaire regarding the implementation of the Convention provisions selected for review in the corresponding round and of the recommendations that have been formulated to it by the Committee in the previous round(s) on which follow-up is being conducted.
- Ensure that the Committee has objective and complete information for the consideration and adoption of the corresponding country report and that those reports are appropriate and useful for the country under review and to contribute to the strengthening of cooperation against corruption within the framework of the Convention and the MESICIC.
- Reveal potential difficulties in the implementation of the Convention provisions under review and/or of the recommendations formulated to it by the Committee in the previous round(s) on which follow-up is being conducted, as well as areas in which the country under review may require or could benefit from technical cooperation.
- Facilitate the obtaining of information related to good practices that have been identified by the country under review in the topics under analysis, and the awareness of which could be of use to other States Parties, and thus contribute to strengthened cooperation and exchanges of information and experiences among the States Parties.
- Provide the country under review with the opportunity to benefit from or to request technical assistance, according to its needs, from either the OAS or other international agencies.

¹⁷ This Methodology is found at the following link: http://www.oas.org/en/sla/dlc/mesicic/docs/met_onsite.pdf

B. CONSENT

According to Provision 5 of the Methodology, an on-site visit requires the consent of the MESICIC State Party involved. Thus, 29 of the 31 States formally extended their consent for on-site visits during the Fourth Round.¹⁸

For those 29 States Parties, the on-site visits were one stage in the review process conducted by the Committee during the Fifth Round, with respect to the Convention provisions selected for said Round and implementation of the recommendation made to 26 of those States regarding the provisions selected for the Second Round and new developments with respect to them. In the remaining 3 States, since they were not members of the MESICIC in the Second Round, the review dealt with implementation of those provisions, given that, understandably, there were no recommendations on which to follow up.

C. BODIES AND AUTHORITIES TAKING PART IN THE ON-SITE VISITS

On-site visits were conducted in all 29 states that assented to them. During these visits, information was gathered directly from officials in 259 government bodies and/or entities regarding implementation of the recommendations of the Second Round and new developments relating to the provisions of the Convention they refer to, as well as regarding implementation of the provisions of the Convention selected for the Fifth Round.

29 of the 31 States formally extended their consent for on-site visits during the Fourth Round.

The following Table lists the government bodies and/or entities referred to in the previous paragraph that took part in the on-site visits:

¹⁸ As noted in Section I of the country reports of Nicaragua and Saint Lucia adopted by the Committee in the Fifth Round, under the section "SUMMARY OF INFORMATION RECEIVED," those States did not grant their consent to an on-site visit."

GOVERNMENT BODIES AND ENTITIES THAT TOOK PART IN THE ON-SITE VISITS

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Social Transformation
- Public Service Commission
- Ministry of Legal Affairs
- Public Prosecution Service
- Integrity Commission
- Judiciary
- Ministry of Legal Affairs
- Police
- Secretariat of the Parliament

**ARGENTINA**

- National Executive Branch
 - Ministry of Modernization
 - Anti-Corruption Office
 - National Procurement Office
 - Secretariat for Public Works
 - Federal Public Revenue Administration
 - National Program to Protect Witnesses and Defendants
- National Legislative Branch
 - Chamber of Deputies
 - Senate
- The National Judiciary
 - National Judicial Council
 - Federal Public Prosecutors' Office
 - Public Prosecutors' Office
 - Public Defenders' Office

**BAHAMAS**

- Ministry of the Public Service
- Public Service Commission
- Government Tenders Board
- Ministry of Finance
- Department of Public Prosecution
- Royal Bahamas Police Force

**BELIZE**

- Ministry of the Attorney General
- Ministry of the Public Service
- Belize Advisory Council
- National Assembly.
- Public Service Commission
- Judicial and Legal Services Commission
- Ministry of Finance

GOVERNMENT BODIES AND ENTITIES THAT TOOK PART IN THE ON-SITE VISITS



BOLIVIA

- Ministry of Economy and Public Finance
- Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security
- Senate
- Chamber of Deputies
- Judicial Council
- Administrative and Financial Department of the Judicial Branch
- Ministry for Institutional Transparency and Fight against Corruption
- Public Prosecution Service
- Plurinational Public Administration School
- Office of the Comptroller General
- Superior Court of Justice (State School of Judges)
- Office of the Procurator General
- Office of the Comptroller General
- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security
- Superior Court of Justice of the Judiciary
- Ministry of Justice



BRAZIL

- Chamber of Deputies
- Federal Senate
- Federal Public Prosecution Service
- Federal Police Department
- Office of the Comptroller General of the Union
- Court of Accounts
- Public Ethics Commission
- Ministry of Planning, Development, and Management
- Judiciary



CANADA

- Public Service Commission
- Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
- Public Service Commission
- Public Services and Procurement Canada



CHILE

- Public Prosecution Service
- Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic
- Chilecompra
- Judiciary
- National Directorate of the Civil Service
- General Government Internal Audit Council
- National Congress

GOVERNMENT BODIES AND ENTITIES THAT TOOK PART IN THE ON-SITE VISITS

 COLOMBIA

- Executive Branch:
 - National Civil Service Commission
 - Civil Service Administrative Department
 - Transparency Secretariat
 - Colombia Compra Eficiente
 - National Agency for Legal Defense of the State
- Legislative Branch:
 - Chamber of Deputies
 - Senate of the Republic
- Judicial Branch
 - Higher Council of the Judiciary
- Office of the Attorney General of the Nation (FGN)
- Office of the Procurator General of the Nation (PGN)
- Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic

 COSTA RICA

- Office of the Director General of the Civil Service
- Office of Cooperation and International Relations, Judiciary
- Victim Protection Unit, Judicial Investigation Agency, Judiciary
- Transparency Commission, Judiciary
- Judiciary Planning Department
- Department of Human Resources, Legislative Branch
- Department of Institutional Strategic Development, Legislative Branch
- Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic
- General Directorate for the Administration of Goods and Administrative Procurement
- Public Prosecution Service

 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- Public Prosecution Service
- Judiciary
- Office of the Director General of the Judicial Career System
- Bureau of Governmental Integrity and Ethics
- Ministry of the Presidency
- Ministry of Public Administration
- Legislative Branch
- National Institute of Public Administration
- National School of the Public Prosecution Service
- General Directorate of Public Procurement
- Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic

 ECUADOR

- Office of the Prosecutor General
- National Court of Justice
- National Assembly
- Office of the Comptroller General
- Citizen Participation and Oversight Council
- National Secretariat for Public Administration
- Ministry of Labor (Vice-Ministry of the Civil Service)
- National Institute of Meritocracy
- Judicial Council
- National Government Procurement Department
- Judicial Council (Judicial Academy)
- State Oil and Gas Enterprise (EP PETROECUADOR)

GOVERNMENT BODIES AND ENTITIES THAT TOOK PART IN THE ON-SITE VISITS



EL SALVADOR

- Government Ethics Tribunal
- Court of Accounts of the Republic
- Civil Service Tribunal
- Salvadoran Institute for Municipal Development
- Legislative Assembly
- Office of the Prosecutor General
- Government Procurement and Contracting Regulatory Unit
- Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Office of the President
- Access to Public Information Institute



GRENADA

- Public Service Commission
- Department of Public Information
- Office of the Ombudsman
- Office of Integrity Commission
- Audit Department
- Office of Integrity Commission
- Supreme Court Registry
- Ministry of Finance / Office of Public Procurement
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecution



GUATEMALA

- Services Commissions Department
- Public Service Commission
- Public Sector Reform Unit
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- Ministry of Finance
- Central Supplies and Tenders Board
- Ministry of Transport and Public Works
- Information Technology Services Division
- Office of the Attorney General;
- Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force



GUYANA

- Public Service Commission
- Public Service Appellate Tribunal
- Audit Office of Guyana
- Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament
- Judicial Service Commission
- Ministry of Finance
- Department of Public Service
- National Procurement and Tender Administration
- Bertram Collins College of Public Service
- Integrity Commission
- Public Procurement Commission
- Department of Public Prosecution

GOVERNMENT BODIES AND ENTITIES THAT TOOK PART IN THE ON-SITE VISITS

 HAITI

- Human Resources Management Office (OMRH)
- National Public Procurement Commission (CNMP)
- Anti-Corruption Unit (ULCC)
- Office of the Director General of Budget (DGB)
- General Customs Administration (AGD)

 HONDURAS

- Directorate General of the Civil Service
- Public Prosecution Service
- Superior Court of Accounts
- Legislative Branch
- Judiciary
- Ministry of Finance
- Secretariat for Public Security
- Presidential Office for Transparency, Modernization, and State Reform
- Public Procurement Policy Office
- National Office of Comprehensive Development of Internal Control (ONADICI)
- Department of Public Prosecution

 JAMAICA

- Office of the Services Commission
- Ministry of Finance and the Public Service
- Procurement and Assets Policy Unit of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service
- Public Procurement Commission
- Office of the Contractor General
- Commission for the Prevention of Corruption
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency of the Jamaican Constabulary Force
- Integrity Commission
- Office of the Public Prosecutor
- Administrative Centre
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of National Security
- Jamaica Constabulary Force

 MEXICO

- Civil Service Secretariat
- Office of the Prosecutor-General of the Republic Chamber of Deputies
- Federal Judicature Council
- Office of the Auditor General

GOVERNMENT BODIES AND ENTITIES THAT TOOK PART IN THE ON-SITE VISITS

 PANAMA

- Public Prosecution Service
- Supreme Court of Justice
- Public Prosecution Service - Unit for Protecting Victims, Witness and Experts in Criminal Proceedings - UPAVIT
- National Transparency and Access to Information Authority (ANTA)
- General Directorate of the Administrative Career (DIGECA)
- Judiciary (Directorate of Human Resources)
- Public Prosecution Service (Directorate of Human Resources)
- Legislature (Directorate of Human Resources)
- Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic (Directorate of Human Resources Development and Department of Public Ethics and Transparency)
- Directorate General of Public Procurement (Institutional Office of Human Resources)
- Office of the Administration Attorney (Public Ethics Unit)

 PARAGUAY

- Public Prosecution Service
- Civil Service Secretariat
- Office of the Comptroller General
- Judiciary
- National Directorate of Public Procurement
- Office of the Attorney General

 PERU

- Public Prosecutors' Office (Office of the Attorney General)
- Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic (CGR)
- Government Procurement Oversight Body (OSCE)
- Judiciary
- Office of the President of the Council of Ministers (PCM)
- National Civil Service Authority (SERVIR)
- Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
- National Superintendency of Customs and Tax Administration (SUNAT)
- Secretariat for Public Management (SGP)

 SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- Public Service Commission
- Human Resources Management Department
- Ministry of Finance
- Department of Public Works
- Public Prosecution Service

GOVERNMENT BODIES AND ENTITIES THAT TOOK PART IN THE ON-SITE VISITS

**ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES**

- Services Commissions Department
- Public Service Commission
- Public Sector Reform Unit
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- Ministry of Finance
- Central Supplies and Tenders Board
- Ministry of Transport and Public Works
- Information Technology Services Division
- Office of the Attorney General
- Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force

**SURINAME**

- Department of Personnel Affairs
- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communication
- Ministry of Justice And Police Financial Management Department
- Central Government Auditing Bureau (CLAD)
- Suriname Police Force/ "Korps Politie Suriname (KPS)"
- Public Prosecutions Department

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

- Ministry of Public Administration
- Central Tenders Board
- Office of the Auditor General
- Office of the Ombudsman
- Office of the Procurement Regulator
- Ministry of Finance
- Integrity Commission
- Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs
- Public Service Academy

**UNITED STATES**

- Office of Special Counsel
- Department of Justice
- Office of Government Ethics

**URUGUAY**

- Office of the Attorney General of the Nation (FGN)
- National Civil Service Office
- State Agency for Procurement and Contracting
- National Social Security Agency
- Court of Accounts
- National Tax Authority
- Office of Planning and Budget
- Ministry of Economy and Finance

In total, 784 officials were interviewed from the 259 government bodies/entities that participated in the on-site visits, including such high-level authorities as chief justices and supreme court justices, comptrollers general and deputy comptrollers, auditors general, members of courts of accounts, legislators, ministers of justice, attorneys general and prosecutors, specialized prosecutors for anti-corruption and public ethics matters, members of integrity commissions, members of public service commissions, transparency secretaries and directors of commissions for the prevention of corruption, ombudsmen and heads of access to information agencies, along with other officials with direct and practical knowledge of the topics identified for consideration at each of the meetings.

The names and positions of these officials are found in the agendas of the on-site visits, which are included in the annexes to the individual country reports and are available at the following link: <http://www.oas.org/en/sla/dlc/default.asp>

D. CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN ON-SITE VISITS

As stated in Chapter IV of this Report, while the MESICIC is intergovernmental in nature, it affords broad opportunities for participation by civil society. For the on-site visits, those opportunities are enshrined in Provisions 26 and 27 of the corresponding Methodology, which provide, respectively, that during the visits, meetings will be held with the civil society organizations that presented documents with information on the questions posed to the States in the Questionnaire, and that invitations to those meetings may also be extended to other civil society organizations and/or, inter alia, organizations representing the private sector, professional associations, academics, and researchers.

784 officials were interviewed from the 259 agencies that participated in the visit.

the 29 on-site visits that were conducted involved the participation of a total of 128 civil society organizations.

As the result of this, the 29 on-site visits that were conducted involved the participation of a total of 128 civil society organizations, private sector organizations, professional associations, and academics and researchers, the names of which are found in the agendas of the on-site visits annexed to the corresponding country reports, available at the link indicated above. The diversity of those participants can be seen in the following chart:

Among the **47 civil society organizations that took part in the on-site visits** were the national chapters of Transparency International, as well as several other notable organizations in the countries visited.

The **41 private sector organizations that participated** included, in particular, chambers of industry and commerce, and other business associations in the countries visited.

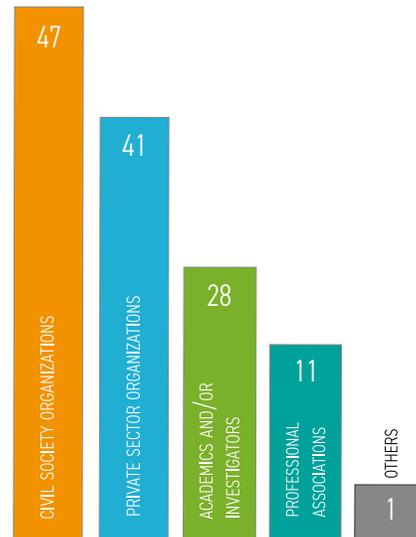
The **28 professional associations interviewed** included bar associations and various civil servants' associations.

11 academics and researchers with recognized expertise in the topics addressed during the on-site visits were also interviewed.

In addition, in one case, the on-site visits were attended by other civil society actors, such as the media.

Annex I to this Report contains a list of civil society participants in the on-site visits, broken down into the aforementioned categories. In all, the 128 civil society participants were represented by 195 individuals, who were interviewed during the visits.

NUMBER OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, AND ACADEMIC AND RESEARCHERS WHO TOOK PART ON THE ON-SITE VISITS OF THE 5TH ROUND OF REVIEW.



(...) the 128 civil society participants were represented by 195 individuals, who were interviewed during the visits.

E. THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE ON-SITE VISITS

The on-site visits attained the goals set for them and, therefore, were clearly successful. This can be seen not only in the considerable number of authorities of the States and representatives of civil society that participated in them, but also in how they enriched the review process of which they are a part: they provided the Committee with invaluable information gathered directly from different, highly qualified sources, thereby equipping it with more solid grounds for formulating concrete and pertinent recommendations geared to strengthening a State's legal and institutional frameworks for instructing public servants with regard to their responsibilities and ethical standards and for establishing their compensation based on objective and transparent criteria. In ad-

dition, the on-site visits provided an opportunity for very close monitoring of implementation of the Second Round recommendations and for reviewing new developments in the countries in connection with the provisions of the Convention addressed in that Round and for making pertinent recommendations.

The visits also allowed the Committee to obtain very useful information on best practices related to the provisions of the Convention selected for review, and the difficulties in implementing them. Likewise, it also allowed to be informed of the difficulties encountered in implementing the Second Round recommendations at close hand, and they also allowed the States to reap the benefits of or to request technical assistance.

All these claims can be corroborated by reading the text of the country reports, which make numerous references to the information gathered during the on-site visits. Those reports are found in the link indicated above.

VII. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC ANALYSIS OF COUNTRY REPORTS

In this Chapter, on the general and specific analysis of the country reports adopted during the Fifth Round, this Report will, first, focus on with the recommendations of the Committee formulated with respect to the provisions of the Convention reviewed in the Second Round, as a result of the follow-up to the their implementation and of the new developments that took place in States in those areas. In this respect, as noted above, the Methodology for the Fifth Round sets out that consideration is to be given to aspects such as the legal framework, technological developments, and results, and for which, relevant observations and recommendations are to be made as needed.

Second, this Chapter will refer to the recommendations made with respect to the Convention provisions selected for review in the Fifth Round.

The general and specific analysis of the results of the follow-up on the implementation of the Second Round recommendations contained in the country reports adopted during the Fifth Round will be made in Chapters VIII and IX of this Report, along with a summary of the progress made by the countries as a whole in connection therewith.

The recommendations formulated by the Committee in connection with the Convention provision selected for the Second and for the Fifth Round, in some cases deal with situations that specifically affect a given country. For that reason, the recommendations are restricted to that country. In other cases, they address situations found more frequently in the 31 MESICIC Member States and, accordingly, those recommendations are more common among them.

While not undermining the importance of the Committee's recommendations that are limited to a specific situation, as found in the adopted country reports,¹⁹ this section of the Report focuses its attention on the recommendations that were most commonly formulated, given that they reflect, to a greater extent, the criteria used by the Committee in reviewing the implementation of the Convention provision selected for the Second and Fifth Round.

However, it should be noted that these common recommendations are not necessarily intended for all countries that were reviewed and were not formulated literally as set out in this section. For their formulation to each country that received these recommendations, their level of progress was taken



MESICIC's Belize Expert makes an intervention during the discussion of a Country Report at the 31st Meeting of the MESICIC Committee of Experts. September 2018, Washington D.C.

¹⁹ These reports are available at: http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mesicic4_rep.htm

into account in the implementation of the Convention, and the particularities of its legal-institutional framework, and for this reason they may differ in their content and present various nuances.

Having made these clarifications, the following section summarizes the elements contained in the most common recommendations formulated by the Committee for consideration by the countries that have received them, with respect to the provisions of the Convention selected for the Second and Fifth Round.

7.1 MOST COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE CONVENTION PROVISIONS REVIEWED IN THE SECOND ROUND²⁰

1. SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT HIRING (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE CONVENTION)

- a. **Enact provisions on the hiring of public servants, as prescribed by higher-ranking norms**, such as constitutional or legal precepts, but which the competent authority has not carried out, based on the principles of openness, equity, and efficiency as set out in the Convention.
- b. **Specify and disseminate the different methods for entry to service in the public administration by determining, in the regulations governing the civil service or in post classification statutes or manuals**, the nature and hierarchy of the positions that make up the personnel of the different public agencies or entities, their functions, the suitability and probity requirements for holding those posts, and selection methods (competitive applications or free appointments) through which they are filled.
- c. **Adopt measures to avoid the improper use of systems for providing the public administration with services**, distinct from those regulated by the civil service, such as the administrative hiring of professional advisory or consultancy services, to employ persons who, by reason of their qualifications and the nature of their functions, should be a part of public agency staff and be selected in accordance with the hiring methods established for those posts.
- d. **Adopt, as a general rule for filling public administration positions, selection by means of a merit based system**, expressly identifying those positions that by reason of their political nature, high level, trust, or other duly justified reason, may be filled on an exceptional basis by means of free appointments, guided by the principles of openness, equity, and efficiency enshrined in the Convention.
- e. **Adopt measures to avoid nepotism in the hiring of public servants.**

²⁰ . The Technical Secretariat prepared a graph of the most common recommendations, which is found in Annex II of this Report

- f. Adopt measures to expand the categories of public administration positions** that, due to the technical nature of their functions, should be covered by the general rule of merit-based selection and not subject to free appointments.
- g. Adopt measures to enforce use of the general rule of selection through the merit-based system, so that in practice extensive and unjustified use is not made of exceptional procedures whereby,** in given circumstances, public administration hiring may be made without observing that system.
- h. Adopt measures to avoid the indefinite prolonging and permanence in public services of individuals hired through interim or temporary appointments** that can be filled without observing the procedures provided for merit-based selection that would otherwise have to be followed to fill those positions.
- i. Establish or strengthen the governing authority responsible for the regulation, administration, development, or oversight of the public service hiring system,** so that it has the requisite powers and competencies and the necessary human, technical, and financial resources for discharging those duties in full, and establish mechanisms to allow the institutional coordination and continuous evaluation and monitoring of its actions.
- j. Adopt measures to harmonize the management of different public service hiring systems, when special regimes exist for specific branches of government or state agencies or entities,** guided by the principles of openness, equity, and efficiency enshrined in the Convention.
- k. Define the manner in which selection by means of the merit-based system is to proceed, specifying in the rules that govern the civil service, or establishing guidelines** which allow for a precise determination of the way in which public service vacancies are to be publicized, the stages that must be observed in competitive recruiting procedures, and the criteria according to which candidates are to be chosen, thereby ensuring a transparent and impartial selection process that observes the principles of openness, equity, and efficiency enshrined in the Convention.
- l. Set timeframes for the publication of notices announcing competitions for filling vacancies by means of the merit-based system,** ensuring they are published sufficiently in advance of the start of the corresponding selection process, in order to ensure broad candidate participation.
- m. Broadly disseminate the notices announcing merit-based competitions for filling positions,** using not only written media such as newspapers or official gazettes, but also electronic media such as the Internet.
- n. Specify the minimum content for the information to be set out in a notice for a competition to fill positions by means of the merit-based system,** including in that information: the deadline for registration of candidacies; the functions of the post and the qualifications required to perform it;

the documents that are to be presented; the selection criteria; the tests that will be carried out, how they are to be evaluated, and the venue at which they are to be conducted; and the identification of sources from which further information can be obtained, such as government offices and web pages.

o. Conduct tests which allow an objective determination, in merit-based selection processes, of the suitability of candidates for the efficient performance of the duties of the position, such as examinations of knowledge and tests of experience, skills, and abilities, as well as tests to verify the probity of candidates, such as background checks.

p. Justify the decisions made in the merit-based selection process, using elements that reflect the way in which the evaluation criteria or factors were applied, and which can be verified through such methods as registries of the tests administered, their results, and files containing the documents reviewed.



MESICIC's Suriname Expert makes an intervention during the discussion of the Suriname Country Report at the 31st Meeting of the MESICIC Committee of Experts. September 2018, Washington D.C.

q. Adopt the measures necessary to ensure that as the result of a merit-based selection process, the candidate selected for the corresponding vacancy is the candidate who secured the best evaluation with respect to the tests carried out.

r. Establish or strengthen, through administrative or judicial channels or both, **challenge mechanisms intended to clarify, modify, or annul the substantive actions carried out during a merit-based selection process**, taking into account the principle of due process and ensuring that any such remedies filed are processed in a timely, objective, and impartial fashion.

s. Adopt corrective measures when irregularities are detected in merit-based selection processes or when obstacles hinder the goal of filling positions by means of such processes.

t. Adopt measures to complete the implementation of administrative career paths, other similar career paths, and merit-based selection systems.

u. Adopt, by means of applicable legal and/or administrative procedures, **provisions which strengthen or establish appropriate control mechanisms to ensure strict compliance with the rules for**

personnel selection in the public service.

v. Compile and publish detailed annual statistics on the results of selection processes of public servants, so as to be able to identify clearly the number and percentage of personnel appointed

through merit-based selection processes, temporary or provisional appointments, special appointments, discretionary appointments, and professional services regimes on an individual basis, such as fee-based contract appointments for advisors and consultants, in order to identify challenges and recommend corrective measures where appropriate.

w. Compile and publish detailed annual statistics on administrative and judicial proceedings, so as to show clearly the number and percentage of complaints and administrative and judicial challenges made against decisions and the outcomes of selection processes, in order to identify challenges and recommend corrective measures where appropriate.

2. GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 5, OF THE CONVENTION)

a. Enact provisions on government procurement of goods and services, as prescribed by higher-ranking norms, such as constitutional or legal precepts, but which the competent authority has not carried out, based on the principles of openness, equity, and efficiency as set out in the Convention.

b. Adopt measures to prevent the use of the contracting regimes of international agencies or cooperation agencies from affecting the control that the respective state should exercise over procurement activities, and adopt measures to harmonize the use of those regimes with those provided for in the domestic legal framework.

c. Adopt measures to harmonize the management of different public contracting systems, when special regimes exist for given branches of government or state institutions and agencies, guided by the principles of openness, equity, and efficiency enshrined in the Convention.

d. Establish or strengthen the agency responsible for the regulation, administration, development, or oversight of the public contracting system, ensuring it has the necessary powers and authority and the human, technical, and financial resources required to discharge those duties in full and establishing mechanisms to allow the institutional coordination and continuous evaluation and monitoring of its actions.

e. Establish or implement provisions requiring prior planning sufficiently in advance of the procurement process, such as the preparation of studies, technical designs and assessments, or analyses to determine the suitability and timeliness of the procurement operation.

f. Adopt measures so that the public bidding procedure is the general rule in government procurement systems for both goods and services, expressly specifying those cases in which, on an exceptional basis, other procedures may be used to select contractors.

- g. Eliminate those exceptions to the general rule of public bidding in government procurement** of goods and services that have been included in public contracting systems without justification.
- h. Specify the reasons used as the bases for exceptions to the general rule of public bidding in government procurement**, ensuring that ambiguous language does not lead to arbitrary interpretations and that clarity exists regarding the extraordinary circumstances in which they may be used.
- i. Adopt measures to ensure the use of public bidding as the general rule for public procurement**, so that in practice, extensive and unjustified use is not made of exceptional procedures for contractor selection.
- j. Publish, when appropriate, draft bidding terms**, so that interested parties can learn about them and submit observations thereon.
- k. Specify the objective factors or selection criteria for the evaluation of bids**, and adopt provisions which require that the results of such evaluations be clearly and precisely justified and to be reported to interested parties.
- l. Adopt rules for contract modification**, which refer to such aspects as the circumstances in which amendments are justified and the method for determining the resulting compensation or indemnification due to either the state or the contractor.
- m. Adopt measures to ensure that public procurement procedures other than public bidding have objective selection criteria**, that the decisions adopted are duly grounded and justified, and that the corresponding oversight over the contracted activity can be carried out, in observance of the principles of openness, equity, and efficiency provided for by the Convention.
- n. Create or strengthen a centralized registry of contractors for public works, goods, and services, of mandatory use for all state agencies and institutions**, and consider the possibility of including a list of contractors who have been sanctioned in that registry, in order to promote the principles of openness, equity, and efficiency enshrined in the Convention.
- o. Create, implement, or strengthen electronic systems such as the Internet, for carrying out government contracting**, so that the acquisition of goods and services can be carried out by means of those systems.
- p. Strengthen and expand the use of electronic media and other information systems to disseminate contracting activity**, in order to more broadly publicize such issues as bidding opportunities, the status of bids and contract awards, and progress made with the execution of important projects.

q. Establish or strengthen, through administrative or judicial channels or through both, and in consideration of the principle of due process, mechanisms for challenging the substantive decisions adopted during the contracting process – such as the bidding or tendering rules, the rejection of bidders, and the selection of the winner – intended to clarify, modify, or revoke those decisions, and adopt measures to ensure they are processed on a timely basis.

r. Complement or strengthen mechanisms for the oversight of contracting activities, providing for audits to be carried out, the establishment of citizen oversight, and monitoring services in contracts which, due to their size, so require; provisions which sanction public officials and contractors who violate the contracting rules; and oversight bodies which have the functional independence and the resources necessary to discharge their functions.

s. Develop or strengthen provisions which regulate the contracting of public works, including the implementation of appropriate control systems for each public works contract, which, due to its size, requires monitoring or direct supervision over the execution of the contract by the contracting entity or another agency designated by the contracting entity; allow citizen watchdogs or civic oversight activities to be carried out; require that periodic reports be provided with respect to contract progress; and make it possible to determine whether the expected cost-benefit ratio was obtained and whether the quality of the work meets what was agreed to.

t. Conduct comprehensive periodic assessments to allow the use and effectiveness of the public sector procurement system to be measured and, based on those results, define and consider the adoption of specific measures which ensure transparency, openness, equity, and efficiency in its operations.

u. Compile detailed annual statistical information on the outcomes of government procurement systems, mentioning such aspects as the procurement procedures used and indicating, for instance, the percentage of contracts awarded through public tender or through exceptional, special, or emergency procedures, in order to identify challenges and recommend corrective measures where appropriate.

v. Compile detailed annual statistical information on sanctions imposed for breaches of procurement rules, in order to identify challenges and recommend corrective measures where appropriate.

3. SYSTEMS FOR PROTECTING PUBLIC SERVANTS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO, IN GOOD FAITH, REPORT ACTS OF CORRUPTION (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 8, OF THE CONVENTION)

a. Adopt a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework that provides protection of public servants and private citizens who, in good faith, report acts of corruption in the administrative sphere, including protection of their identities, in accordance with the Constitution and the fundamental principles of its domestic legal order, taking into account the criteria outlined in the Model Law

to Facilitate and Encourage the Reporting of Acts of Corruption and to Protect Whistleblowers and Witnesses.

- b. Adopt, through the corresponding authority, a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework that provides protection of public servants, private citizens and witnesses who, in good faith, report acts of corruption subject to investigation in judicial proceedings,** including protection of their identities, in accordance with the Constitution and the fundamental principles of its domestic legal order, taking into account the criteria outlined in the Model Law to Facilitate and Encourage the Reporting of Acts of Corruption and to Protect Whistleblowers and Witnesses.
- c. Establish protection measures for persons reporting acts of corruption subject to investigation in administrative proceedings.**
- d. Establish protection measures for persons reporting acts of corruption subject to investigation in judicial proceedings.**
- e. Establish mechanisms to protect all whistleblowers and their families,** not only their physical integrity, but also to provide protection in the workplace, especially when the person is a public official and the acts of corruption involve his superior or co-workers.
- f. Establish mechanisms for reporting,** such as anonymous reporting or protection of identity reporting, that guarantee the personal security and the confidentiality of the identity of public servants and private citizens who in good faith report acts of corruption.
- g. Establish mechanisms to report any threats or reprisals against whistleblowers,** stating the appropriate authorities to process protection requests and the bodies responsible for providing it.
- h. Establish mechanisms to facilitate international cooperation on the protection of whistleblowers and witnesses,** when appropriate, including the technical assistance and cooperation provided for by the Convention, as well as the exchanges of experiences, training, and mutual assistance on these matters.
- i. Establish a simplified and readily accessible application process for protection measures for whistleblowers and witnesses of acts of corruption.**
- j. Adopt provisions which provide for sanctions for the failure to observe the rules and/or duties relating to the protection of whistleblowers and witnesses,** as well as for the authority to apply the sanctions.
- k. Adopt such measures as are needed to ensure the availability of resources for guaranteeing that measures to protect whistleblowers are implemented.**

l. Establish mechanisms for the protection of witnesses, providing them with the same guarantees as public officials and private citizens.

m. Compile and keep detailed annual statistics on results in terms of protection of whistleblowers and witnesses of acts of corruption, showing how many applications for protection measures were filed; how many were accepted and what type of protection was provided; how many applications were refused and why; how many protection applications remained undecided; how long the protection measures were in place; and how effective the measures were, in order to identify challenges and recommend corrective measures where appropriate.

4. ACTS OF CORRUPTION (ARTICLE VI OF THE CONVENTION)

a. Broaden the concept of public official subject to the conduct set out in Article VI.1 of the Convention, so that it conforms to the definition of “Public official”, “government official”, or “public servant” used in Article I of the Convention.

b. Adjust the corresponding criminal provisions so that they include all of the elements listed in paragraph (a) of Article VI.1 of the Convention, which addresses the solicitation or acceptance, directly or indirectly, by a government official or a person who performs public functions, of any article of monetary value, or other benefit, such as a gift, favor, promise or advantage for himself or for another person or entity, in exchange for any act or omission in the performance of his public functions.

c. Adjust the corresponding criminal provisions so that they include all of the elements listed in paragraph (b) of Article VI.1 of the Convention, which addresses the offering or granting, directly or indirectly, to a government official or a person who performs public functions, of any article of monetary value, or other benefit, such as a gift, favor, promise or advantage for himself or for another person or entity, in exchange for any act or omission in the performance of his public functions.

d. Adjust the corresponding criminal provisions so that they include all of the elements listed in paragraph (c) of Article VI.1 of the Convention, which addresses any act or omission committed in the discharge of his duties by a government official or a person who performs public functions for the purpose of illicitly obtaining benefits for himself or for a third party.

e. Complement the corresponding criminal provisions so that they include the actions covered by paragraph (d) of Article VI.1 of the Convention, which addresses the fraudulent use or concealment of property derived from any of the acts of corruption referred to in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of Article VI.1 of the Convention as described above.

f. Complement the corresponding criminal provisions so that they criminalize the elements listed in paragraph (e) of Article VI.1 of the Convention, which addresses participation as a principal,

coprincipal, instigator, accomplice or accessory after the fact, or in any other manner, in the commission or attempted commission of, or in any collaboration or conspiracy to commit, any of the acts referred to in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of Article VI.1 of the Convention as described above.

g. Strengthen bodies and/or entities competent to investigate, prosecute, adjudicate, and sanction the conduct set out by Article VI.1 of the Convention.

h. Compile detailed annual statistics on investigations into acts of corruption, so as to determine how many have been suspended, how many have prescribed, how many have been discontinued, how many are ongoing, and how many have been referred to the competent authority for a decision, in order to identify challenges and recommend corrective measures where appropriate.

i. Compile detailed annual statistics on judicial proceedings related to acts of corruption, so as to determine how many are ongoing, suspended, prescribed, discontinued without a decision adopted, ready for a decision, or have had a decision adopted on merits, and whether the decision was to acquit or convict, in order to identify challenges and recommend corrective measures where appropriate.

7.2 MOST COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE CONVENTION PROVISIONS REVIEWED IN THE FIFTH ROUND²¹

1. INSTRUCTIONS TO GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL TO ENSURE PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE ETHICAL RULES GOVERNING THEIR ACTIVITIES (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE CONVENTION)

A. RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING INSTRUCTIONS TO ENSURE PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Adopt provisions and/or measures to provide instructions to the government personnel group under review, which ensure proper understanding of their responsibilities and/or functions, and attach a copy of them or provide links to the web pages where they can be consulted.

b. Establish a formal training program for the government personnel group under review, in order to ensure mandatory participation in training or induction programs for recently hired personnel that should include face-to-face or online courses, and a timetable so that all personnel can understand their responsibilities and the functions they are expected to perform. There should also be end-of-training evaluations to ascertain the instructions are properly understood.

21 The Technical Secretariat has prepared a table of the frequency of some of these recommendations, which is found in Annex II of this Report.

- c. **Provide training to the personnel in the government personnel group under review**, whenever their responsibilities and/or functions change, so that all personnel can understand their new responsibilities and the functions they are expected to perform. There should also be end-of-training evaluations to ascertain said understanding.
- d. **Include in training programs for personnel in the government personnel group under review, modules that make them aware of the risks of corruption** inherent in the performance of those responsibilities and/or functions and with the consequences and sanctions for those involved in acts of corruption.
- e. **Appoint a person or entity within the government personnel group under review, to whom personnel can resort to obtain information or resolve doubts about how to perform their responsibilities and functions properly.**
- f. **Establish a governing organ responsible for defining, steering, giving guidance on, or supporting the manner in which personnel in the government entities under review are to be informed of their responsibilities and/or functions** and for seeing that this task is fully carried out, and the measures or steps such bodies can adopt to ensure compliance with the norms and/or measures in force in this regard.
- g. **Adopt such measures as are needed to ensure the availability of resources for providing training on the responsibilities of personnel.**
- h. **Compile detailed annual statistics on the results obtained in the application of the provisions and/or measures relating to the instructions given to the selected government personnel group** to ensure that they have an appropriate understanding of their responsibilities and functions, making reference, to the extent that is possible, to issues such as the following: the holding of introductory, training or instructional programs and courses to that end, the periodicity or frequency with which they have been held, and the number of public servants covered by them; implementation of programs for the same purpose; preparation of guidelines to counsel public servants on the proper performance of their functions and to alert them to the risks of corruption inherent in the performance of their responsibilities; responses to inquiries by public servants on the correct performance of their functions and the use of modern communication technologies for that purpose; activities undertaken to ascertain whether the objective of ensuring that responsibilities or functions are understood was in fact achieved; and measures or actions developed by the authorities or bodies responsible for ensuring that instructions to that end are fully provided and with ensuring the enforcement of provisions and/or measures in force; in order to identify challenges and recommend corrective measures where appropriate.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING INSTRUCTIONS TO ENSURE PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF ETHICAL RULES

- a. Adopt provisions and/or measures in your country for providing instructions to the selected government personnel group under review, which ensure proper understanding of the ethical rules governing their activities, and attach a copy of them or provide links to the web pages where they can be consulted.**
- b. Establish a formal training program containing instructions on the ethical rules governing the activities of the government personnel group under review that should include the courses offered and a timetable to ensure that they are taught when they take up office, as well as end-of-training evaluations.**
- c. Provide training to the government personnel group under review, when a change in their functions entails a different set of applicable ethical rules, or when changes are made to those rules, so that all personnel can understand the new ethical rules they are expected to observe. There should also be end-of-training evaluations to ascertain said understanding.**
- d. Appoint a person or body to which personnel can resort to obtain information or resolve doubts about the scope or interpretation of the ethical rules governing their activities.**
- e. Establish a governing organ, authority or body responsible for defining, steering, giving guidance on, or supporting the manner in which personnel are to be informed of the ethical rules governing their activities, and for seeing that this task is fully carried out, and the measures or actions that such bodies can take to enforce the norms and/or measures in force in this regard.**
- f. Adopt such measures as are needed to ensure the availability of resources for providing training on ethical rules.**
- g. Compile detailed annual statistics on the results of instructions imparted to personnel of the government entities under review to ensure proper understanding of the ethical rules governing their activities, making reference to issues such as the following: the holding of introductory, training or instructional programs and courses to that end, the periodicity or frequency with which they have been held, and the number of public servants covered by them; preparation of guidelines to counsel public servants on the scope and interpretation of those ethical rules and about the consequences of failure to abide by them for public institutions and the wrongdoers; responses to inquiries by public servants to that same end and the use of modern communication technologies for that purpose; activities undertaken to ascertain whether the objective of ensuring that the ethical rules are understood was in fact achieved; and actions undertaken by the authorities or bodies responsible for ensuring that instructions to that end are fully imparted and with ensuring the enforcement of provisions and/or measures in force; in order to identify challenges and recommend corrective measures where appropriate.**

2. STUDY OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES THAT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EQUITABLE COMPENSATION AND PROBITY IN PUBLIC SERVICE (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 12 OF THE CONVENTION)

- a. Establish a legal framework and/or policy on salary that is based on objective and transparent criteria for determining equitable compensation of public servants.**
- b. Post on the Internet the policies, criteria, and salary scales relating to public servants.**
- c. Narrow any wide salary gaps between different branches of government or public sector entities.**

VIII. SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS MADE BY ALL THE COUNTRIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS FORMULATED BY THE COMMITTEE IN THE SECOND ROUND OF REVIEW

A. BASIS FOR DETERMINING PROGRESS

Article 30(b) of the Committee's Rules of Procedure states that the Hemispheric Report to be adopted at the end of each round shall contain a summary of progress achieved by the countries overall in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee in previous rounds.

Pursuant to that provision, and taking into account the decision adopted by the Committee at its Twenty-Fourth meeting, in compliance with Recommendation 9(a) of the Third Meeting of the Conference of MESICIC States Parties, that the Fifth Round focus on following up on the implementation of the Second Round recommendations, the summary will refer to the progress made with those recommendations by all 27 States that were reviewed in that Round, and that were also reviewed in the Fifth Round.²²

The progress will be determined on the basis of the comments made by the Committee in the country reports adopted in the Third, and Fourth Rounds. It should also be borne in mind that in this most recent round, pursuant to Article 29 of the Rules of Procedure and to the review methodology adopted for that round, the Committee identified which of the recommendations and/or measures formulated in the Second Round were no longer current on account of circumstances such as changes in the corresponding country's legal and institutional framework; and examined the steps taken by the countries in question to implement those recommendations. In doing so, the Committee noted those that had been considered satisfactorily, those that reported progress in its implementation, and those on which no information was reported and, in the latter two cases, indicating that they required additional attention from the States to which they were formulated. Those reports may be found at the following link: <http://www.oas.org/en/sla/dlc/default.asp>.

Accordingly, to clearly indicate the progress made with the total number of recommendations and/or measures formulated by the Committee for the 27 States that were reviewed in the First Round, and which were also reviewed in the Fifth Round, the following situations were taken into account:

- Recommendations and/or measures no longer considered current.
- Recommendations and/or measures that have been satisfactorily considered.
- Recommendations and/or measures reporting progress in their implementation.

²² The review of Venezuela was postponed for reasons of force majeure.

- Recommendations and/or measures providing no information on progress in their implementation.

Thus, after removing the recommendations and/or measures considered no longer current and which therefore no longer require implementation, the following results are obtained with respect to each of the Convention provisions reviewed in the Second Round:

1. SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT HIRING (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 5, OF THE CONVENTION)

Of the 224 recommendations and/or measures formulated by the Committee in this matter, 25 were considered no longer current. Of the remainder, 33 (15%) were given satisfactory consideration; 105 (46%) showed progress with implementation; and in the case of 81 (37%) no information was provided as to progress with their implementation.

2. GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE CONVENTION)

Of the 248 recommendations and/or measures formulated by the Committee in this matter, 13 were considered no longer current. Of the remainder, 58 (25%) were given satisfactory consideration; 115 (50%) showed progress with implementation; and in the case of 59 (25%) no information was provided as to progress with their implementation.

3. SYSTEMS FOR PROTECTING PUBLIC SERVANTS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO, IN GOOD FAITH, REPORT ACTS OF CORRUPTION (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 8, OF THE CONVENTION)

Of the 151 recommendations and/or measures formulated by the Committee in this matter, all were considered current; of them 21 (14%) were given satisfactory consideration; 73 (47%) showed progress with implementation; and in the case of 60 (39%) no information was provided as to progress with their implementation.

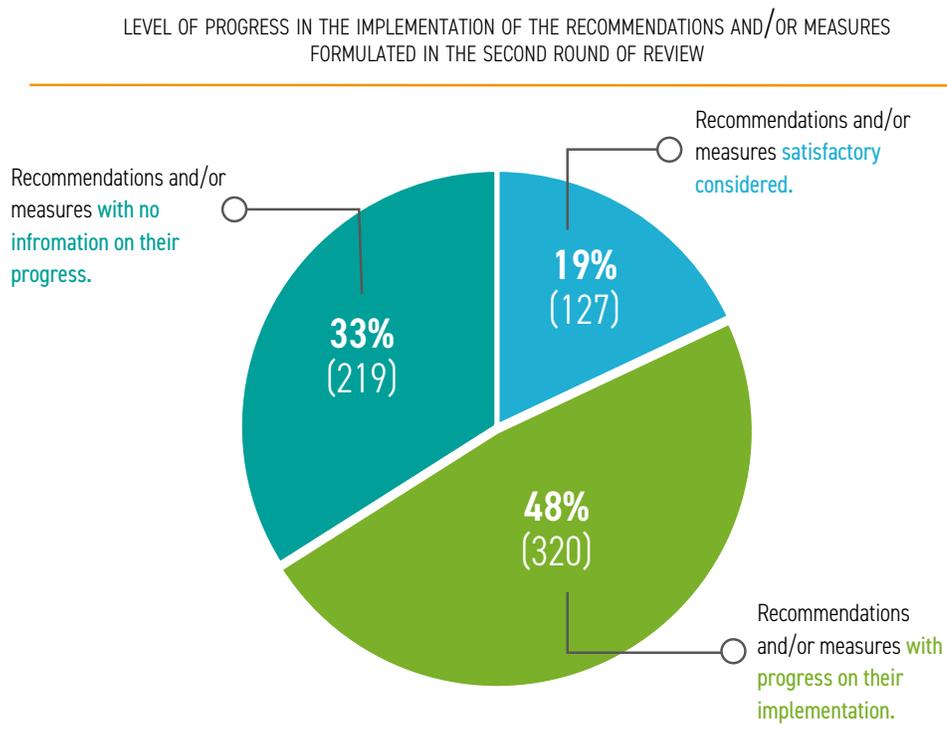
4. ACTS OF CORRUPTION (ARTICLE VI OF THE CONVENTION)

Of the 66 recommendations and/or measures formulated by the Committee in this matter, 5 were considered no longer current. Of the remainder, 15 (25%) were given satisfactory consideration; 27 (44%) showed progress with implementation; and in the case of 19 (31%) no information was provided as to progress with their implementation.

B. CONSOLIDATED PROGRESS RESULTS

An analysis of the above information reveals the following consolidated results on the level of progress with implementation of the recommendations formulated by the Committee in the Second Round to the 27 States that were reviewed in that Round, as well as in the Fifth Round:

1. Of the 712 recommendations and/or measures formulated by the Committee in the Second Round, 46 were considered no longer current. With respect to the remaining 666 recommendations and/or measures, 127 were given satisfactory consideration; 320 showed progress with implementation; and in the case of 219, no information was provided as to progress with their implementation. The corresponding percentages are shown in the following graph:

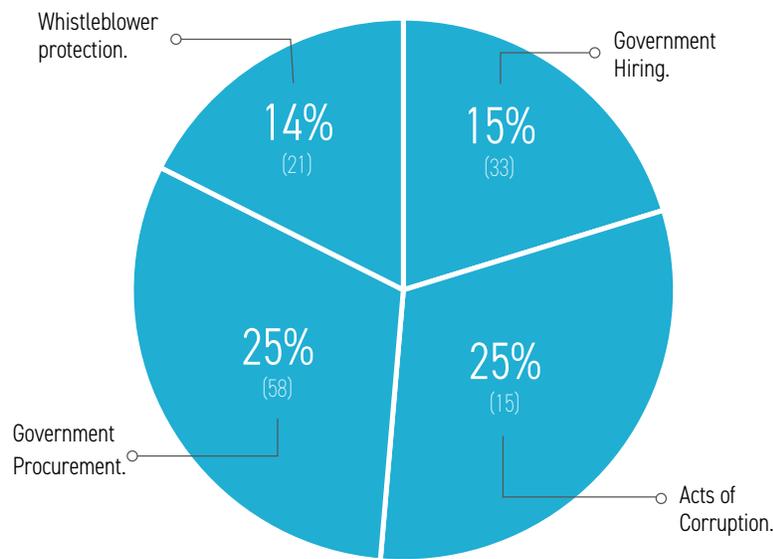


The chart indicates that the progress made with the implementation of the recommendations and/or measures formulated in the Second Round, indicated by those that have been satisfactorily considered and those reporting progress with implementation, stands at 67% of the total, of which the 19% have been fully implemented.

This represents significant progress, bearing in mind that many of those recommendations and measures address the strengthening of the legal frameworks governing the provisions of the IA-CAC reviewed in the Second Round and that their implementation requires the enactment of new laws or amendments to existing laws, which can take a considerable time.

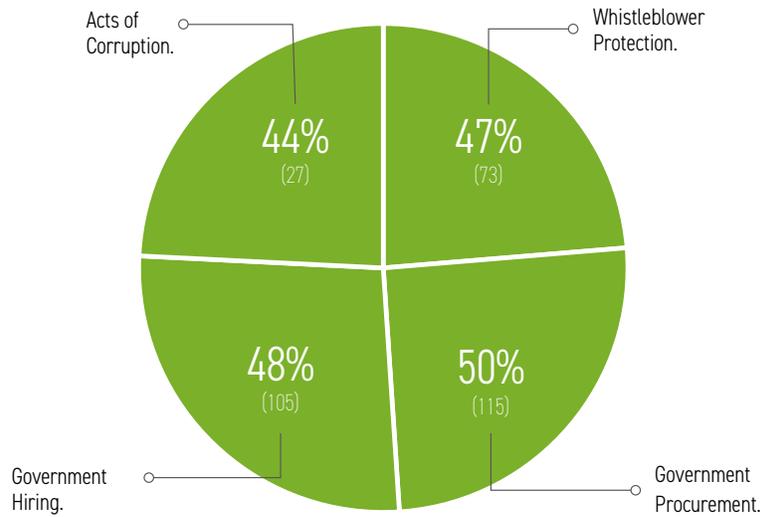
2. The following chart breaks down the 19% of the recommendations and/or measures that were satisfactorily considered, indicating the percentages corresponding to each of the IACAC provisions addressed by those recommendations and/or measures:

PERCENTAGE OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR MEASURES SATISFACTORILY CONSIDERED CORRESPONDING TO EACH OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE IACC TO WHICH THEY REFER



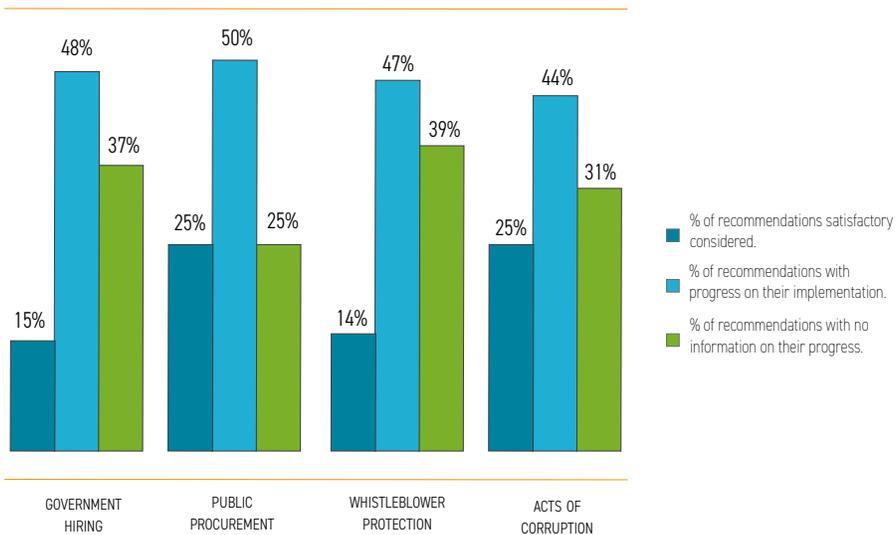
3. The following chart breaks down the 48% of the recommendations and/or measures reporting progress in their implementation, indicating the percentages corresponding to each of the IACAC provisions addressed by those recommendations and/or measures:

PERCENTAGE OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR MEASURES WITH PROGRESS IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION CORRESPONDING TO EACH OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE IACAC TO WHICH THEY REFER



4. The following chart indicates the progress made with the implementation of the recommendations and/or measures formulated during the Second Round with respect to each of the provisions of the IACAC that they address, showing the percentages of those have been satisfactorily considered, those reporting progress in their implementation, and those reporting no progress:

PERCENTAGE/LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR MEASURES FORMULATED IN THE SECOND ROUND



The chart indicates that, with regard to the provisions of the IACAC reviewed in the Second Round, the percentages of recommendations and/or measures given satisfactory consideration or show progress in their implementation exceed the percentages of those for which no progress has been reported. Accordingly:

- As regards GOVERNMENT HIRING SYSTEMS, **63% OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR MEASURES MADE IN THE SECOND ROUND WITH RESPECT TO THIS TOPIC OF THE IACAC WERE EITHER GIVEN A SATISFACTORY CONSIDERATION OR SHOWED PROGRESS IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION**, compared to 37% for which progress was not reported.
- As regards GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES, **75% OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR MEASURES MADE IN THE SECOND ROUND WITH RESPECT TO THIS TOPIC OF THE IACAC WERE EITHER GIVEN A SATISFACTORY CONSIDERATION OR SHOWED PROGRESS IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION**, compared to 25% for which progress was not reported.
- As regards SYSTEMS FOR PROTECTING PUBLIC SERVANTS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO IN GOOD FAITH REPORT ACTS OF CORRUPTION, **61% OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR MEASURES MADE IN THE SECOND ROUND WITH RESPECT TO THIS TOPIC OF THE IACAC WERE EITHER GIVEN A SATISFACTORY CONSIDERATION OR SHOWED PROGRESS IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION** compared to 39% for which progress was not reported.
- As regards ACTS OF CORRUPTION, **69% OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR MEASURES MADE IN THE SECOND ROUND WITH RESPECT TO THIS TOPIC OF THE IACAC WERE EITHER GIVEN A SATISFACTORY CONSIDERATION OR SHOWED PROGRESS IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION**, compared to 31% for which progress was not reported.
- At the same time, it is worth noting that, bearing in mind the methodology adopted for the Fifth Round and in light of such circumstances as changes in the legal-institutional framework in a given country, the Committee reformulated a considerable number of the recommendations and/or measures put forward in the Second Round (31%), so as to bring them into line with the changes encountered. Implementation of those reformulated recommendations and/or measures will be reviewed in subsequent Rounds.

IX. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE COUNTRIES THAT REPRESENT PROGRESS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FORMULATED BY THE COMMITTEE IN THE SECOND ROUND OF REVIEW

To allow an appreciation of the actions undertaken by the 28 States reviewed in the First Round that the Committee has deemed to represent progress with the implementation of the recommendations and/or measures formulated to them in that round, the MESICIC Technical Secretariat has prepared a summary of those undertakings, based on the contents of the country reports from the Second, Third, and Fourth Rounds of Review in which the Committee followed up on the implementation of those recommendations.

In order to highlight the actions undertaken by the 27 States reviewed in the Second Round, and were also reviewed in the Fifth Round,²³ that the Committee deemed to represent progress with the implementation of the recommendations and/or measures it put to them in the Second Round, the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC has prepared a summary of those actions, based on the country reports corresponding to the Third and Fifth Rounds of Review, in which the Committee followed up on the implementation of those recommendations.

Given the large number and diversity of those actions, and in order to provide in a standard manner the progress with the implementation of the Second Round recommendations that those actions represent for the 27 States that received them, and were also reviewed in the Fifth Round, they have been classified in the following categories, according to the types of actions most commonly undertaken by the countries:

- a. Enactment of laws and/or legal measures.
- b. Preparation and processing of draft laws.
- c. Organization of training and/or awareness-raising activities.
- d. International cooperation activities.
- e. Institutional strengthening actions.
- f. Adoption or implementation of technological systems or tools.

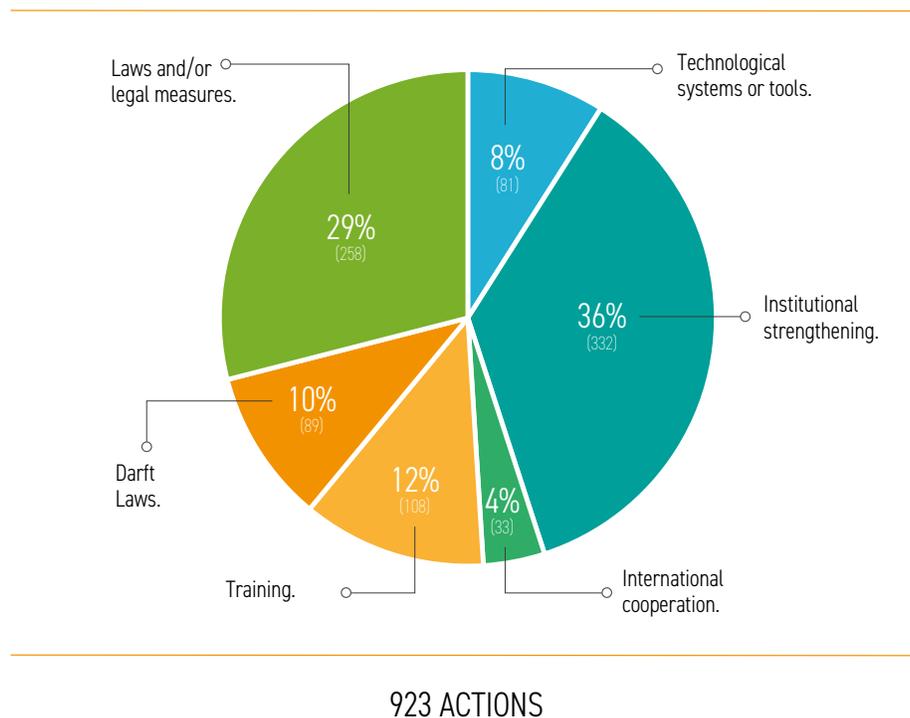
Thus, Annex IV of this Report offers a summarized description of the actions in question, classifying them into the above categories, from which the following results can be observed:

²³ The review of Venezuela was postponed for reasons of force majeure.

1. The States have undertaken a total of 923 actions that the Committee deems to constitute progress with the implementation of the recommendations and/or measures formulated to them in the Second Round.

The breakdown of those actions into the aforesaid categories can be seen on the following graph:

GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF THE CATEGORIES OF ACTIONS DEVELOPED BY STATES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR MEASURES FORMULATES IN THE SECOND ROUND



2. As the graph demonstrates, although the actions undertaken by the States vary greatly, by combining those relating to the enactment of laws and/or legal measures with those relating to draft laws or bills, this accounts for the largest number of actions undertaken by States. This reflects the importance of strengthening a State's legal framework for combating corruption, which is one of the basic goals of the recommendations of the MESICIC.

3. The graph also illustrates how a large percentage of actions have to do with institutional strengthening, which is another of the essential purposes pursued by the MESICIC, given that laws on their own are not enough, but need institutions able to effectively enforce them.

4. The organization of training and/or awareness-raising activities for the public officials responsible for carrying out the specific activities through which the competent institutions discharge their duties represents the third largest group of actions. Such efforts are of vital importance for those institutions' effectiveness because, in the final analysis, the full exercise of those powers and the attainment of the expected results depend on those officials. That was precisely the reason why the Committee decided to devote the Fifth Round specifically to reviewing the provision in the Convention that refers to instructions to government personnel to ensure proper understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical rules governing their activities.

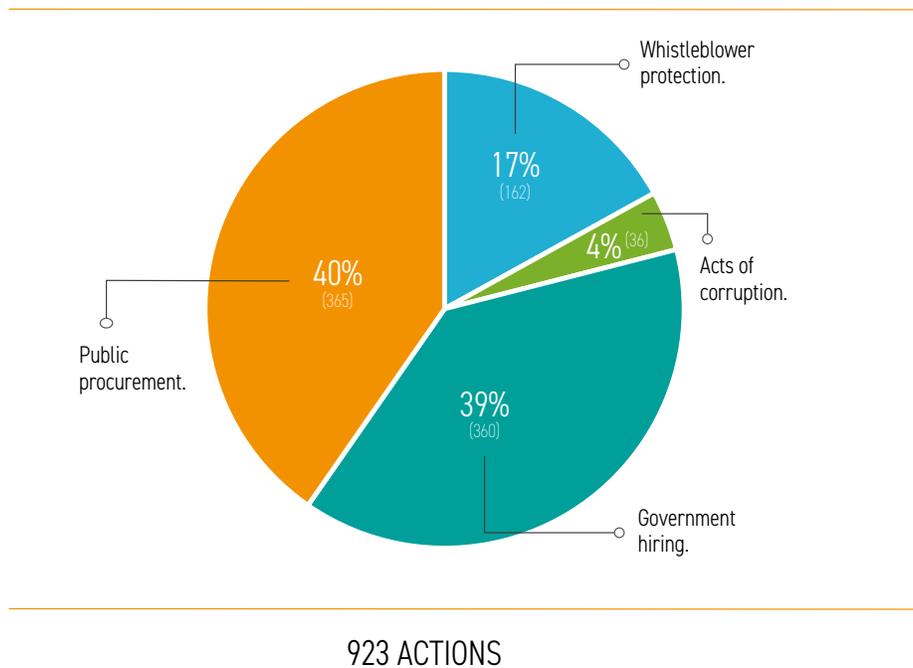
5. Worthy of note is the percentage of the actions involving draft laws. This underscores the need to continue strengthening the legal frameworks governing the Convention provisions that were reviewed in the Second Round, together with the essential role that legislative branches must play in that task.

6. It is understandable that the actions for the implementation of technological systems or tools represent the fourth largest group, since the Committee has stressed the importance of their use in such areas as government hiring systems and in government procurement of goods and services, which were reviewed in the Second Round.

7. Finally, as regards international cooperation activities, in light of the importance of strengthening such cooperation at the hemispheric level, in Chapter XI of this Report the Committee will formulate a series of collective recommendations on the point, in accordance with the terms of Article 30 of its Rules of Procedure.

The breakdown of these 923 actions, according to the Convention provisions reviewed in the Second Round that they address, is as follows:

GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF THE ACTIONS DEVELOPED IN RELATION WITH THE TOPICS REFERRED TO IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR MEASURES FORMULATED IN THE SECOND ROUND



The graph demonstrates that most of the actions address the Convention provisions that deal with systems of government hiring and procurement of goods and services: 39% and 40%, respectively, or 79% in all. This is due not only to their importance, but also to the fact that most of the recommendations formulated in the Second Round addressed the implementation of these provisions (33% and 35%, respectively, for a total of 68%). Moreover, the review of those provisions not only covered very broad aspects; it also examined a large variety of those systems in different branches of government and government agencies.

The actions addressing the remaining convention provisions reviewed in the Second Round are also indicated on the chart and, taken together, represent 21% of the total. That figure, as with the provisions referred to in the previous paragraph, is in approximate proportion with the number of recommendations formulated in connection with their implementation during that round, which accounted for 32% of the total.

X. CONSOLIDATION OF THE MESICIC AS A HEMISPHERIC FORUM FOR THE EXCHANGE AND USE OF BEST PRACTICES

10.1 THE METHODOLOGY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR PRESENTING, DISSEMINATING, AND MAKING USE OF BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTING AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION

At the Thirtieth Meeting, held in March 2018, the Committee adopted a methodology for the presentation of best practices by States for preventing and combating corruption; their compilation and dissemination via the MESICIC website; promoting their use; and information regarding States willing to receive and share technical assistance with implementing them.

That methodology provides the timeframe for the presentation of best practices and includes a standard format to be used by States for providing information on their usefulness, and how other States can make the most of them.

In the standard format, States are to identify, inter alia, the provision in the IACAC to which the best practice refers; state the reason why it should be regarded as a best practice and expressly refer to its sustainability; state whether it may help other countries; and express their willingness to provide technical assistance with implementing it.

That methodology is available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/sla/dlc/mesicic/buenas-practicas.html>

10.2 BEST PRACTICES REPORTED BY STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE METHODOLOGY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR PRESENTING, DISSEMINATING, AND MAKING USE OF BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTING AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION.

Beginning with the Thirty-First meeting of the Committee, held in September 2018, which first used this methodology, the following States began presenting best practices with respect to the provisions of the Convention referred to below on a half-yearly basis, in accordance with the methodology and which are described in detail on the MESICIC website, at: <https://www.oas.org/en/sla/dlc/mesicic/buenas-practicas.html>

SECOND HALF OF 2018 (September 2018 Committee Meeting)		
ARTICLE OF THE CONVENTION	COUNTRY	BEST PRACTICE
GOVERNMENT HIRING <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 5, OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 MEXICO	Open contracting platform in the Government of Mexico.
MECHANISMS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN EFFORTS TO PREVENT CORRUPTION <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 11, OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 BRAZIL	Methodology for Evaluating the Maturity Level of Integrity Systems of State Companies.
	 MEXICO	Anticorruption Open up Guide Open data System.
	 PANAMA	Strengthening and accompaniment of the Integrity Program to promote a culture of integrity in business. Government Open Data Training.
UNDERSTANDING OF ETHICAL RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES BY PUBLIC SERVANTS <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 ECUADOR	Evaluation parameters for public servants.
	 UNITED STATES	Institute for Ethics in Government (IEG).
MUTUAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE <small>(ARTICLE XIV OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 BOLIVIA	Compendium of Design and Implementation of the Municipal Plan / Policy for Transparency and Combating Corruption.
PREVENTION OF BRIBERY OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 ARGENTINA	Registration of Gifts to Public Officials and Travel Registry of Public Officials Financed by Third Parties.

FIRST HALF OF 2019 (March 2019 Committee Meeting)		
ARTICLE OF THE CONVENTION	COUNTRY	BEST PRACTICE
MUTUAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE <small>(ARTICLE XIV OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 BRAZIL	National Strategy for Fighting Corruption and Money Laundering.
MECHANISMS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN EFFORTS TO PREVENT CORRUPTION <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 11 OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 COLOMBIA	Public Innovation at the Service of the Fight against Corruption .
PREVENTION OF BRIBERY OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPHS 10 OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 MEXICO	International Certification ISO 37001:2016, "Anti-bribery Management Systems" of the General Inspection Team (Visitaduría General).
ACTS OF CORRUPTION <small>(ARTICLE VI OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 COSTA RICA	Implementation of Social Damage due to Corruption.
OFFICIAL DUTY TO REPORT ACTS OF CORRUPTION <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	Public Complaints Mechanism, Acts of Corruption.
UNDERSTANDING OF ETHICAL RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES BY PUBLIC SERVANTS <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 3, OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 PANAMA	Ethics Training Parameters for Public Servants.

SECOND HALF 2019 (September 2019 Committee Meeting)		
ARTICLE OF THE CONVENTION	COUNTRY	BEST PRACTICE
ACTS OF CORRUPTION <small>(ARTICLE VI OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 BRAZIL	System of Liability of Legal Entities and Leniency Agreements.
MUTUAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE <small>(ARTICLE XIV OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 ECUADOR	International Experts Commission for the Fight against Corruption in Ecuador.
MECHANISMS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN EFFORTS TO PREVENT CORRUPTION <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 11, OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 MEXICO	Transparent payroll of the Federal Public Administration.
	 PERU	Register of Business Integrity. Platform Management for Visitors and Interests.
PROTECTION FOR THOSE WHO REPORT ACTS OF CORRUPTION <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 8, OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 MEXICO	Internal and external whistleblowers (reporting acts of corruption).
DISCLOSURE OF THE INCOME, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF PERSONS WHO PERFORM PUBLIC FUNCTIONS <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 4, OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 PERU	Sworn Statement of Assets/Interests.
GOVERNMENT HIRING <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 5, OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 ARGENTINA	Anticorruption Strategy and 2019-2023 National Plan.

FIRST HALF 2020 (March 2020 Committee Meeting)		
ARTICLE OF THE CONVENTION	COUNTRY	BEST PRACTICE
STANDARDS ON THE CONSERVATION OF PUBLIC RESOURCES <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 11, OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	Comprehensive Framework to Protect against Laundering to Proceeds of Crime
MUTUAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE <small>(ARTICLE XIV OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 ECUADOR	Draft Organic Law on Recovery of Illicit and Unjustified Origin and Purpose of Goods
MECHANISMS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN EFFORTS TO PREVENT CORRUPTION <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 11, OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 MEXICO	4th Action Plan 2019-2021 for Open Government Partnership (4PA)
		Denuncia Paisano
		Ventanilla Única de Atención
		Public Table for Following-Up on Mexico's Action Plans for Open Government Partnership
PROTECTION FOR THOSE WHO REPORT ACTS OF CORRUPTION <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 8, OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 CHILE	Draft Bill for Protecting Those Who Report Acts of Corruption
	 ECUADOR	Form for Alerting Acts of Corruption
UNDERSTANDING OF ETHICAL RULES <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 CHILE	Integrity System of the Office of the Prosecutorial Service of Chile.
	 UNITED STATES	Education and Training as a Means of Prevention.
	 MEXICO	Code of Ethics for Public Servants of the Federal Government. National Program to Fight Corruption and Impunity and Improvement of Public Management.
PREVENTION OF BRIBERY <small>(ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE CONVENTION)</small>	 MEXICO	International Certification ISO 37001:2016, "Anti-bribery Management Systems".

(...) 11 States Parties to the mesicic have presented 35 topics they regard as best practices in 11 areas addressed by the convention. they have been disseminated on the mesicic website (...)

As demonstrated above, beginning in September 2018, when the methodology was first used, 11 States Parties to the MESICIC have presented 35 topics they regard as best practices in 11 areas addressed by the Convention. They have been disseminated on the MESICIC website, to ensure that the member states of the Mechanism are fa-

miliar with them and are able to contact the authorities named by the States concerned so that they can provide technical assistance with their implementation for States that consider them apt and beneficial, in accordance with each State's particular circumstances.

10.3 BEST PRACTICES REPORTED BY STATES IN THEIR RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING THE CONVENTION PROVISIONS SELECTED FOR THE SECOND AND FIFTH ROUNDS

As provided for in Section VI of the Methodology adopted by the Committee for following up on implementation of the recommendations formulated and provisions reviewed in the Second Round and for review of the Convention provisions selected for the Fifth Round, States were able to volunteer information in their responses to the questionnaire regarding what they consider to be best practices with respect to those provisions in the Convention, as set out in the following Table:

BEST PRACTICES REPORTED BY STATES IN THEIR RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING THE CONVENTION PROVISIONS SELECTED FOR THE SECOND AND FIFTH ROUNDS		
PROVISION OF THE CONVENTION	STATES REPORTING BEST PRACTICES	NUMBER OF PRACTICES
HIRING OF PUBLIC SERVANTS	 CANADA	1
	 COSTA RICA	1
	 ECUADOR	1
	 EL SALVADOR	3
	 MEXICO	2
	 GUATEMALA	1
TOTAL	6 countries	9 practices
GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT	 BOLIVIA	3
	 BRAZIL	1
	 CHILE	1
	 ECUADOR	1
TOTAL	4 countries	6 practices
PROTECTION OF THOSE WHO REPORT ACTS OF CORRUPTION (WHISTLEBLOWERS)	 UNITED STATES	1
	 PERU	1
	 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1
TOTAL	3 countries	3 practices

BEST PRACTICES REPORTED BY STATES IN THEIR RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING THE CONVENTION PROVISIONS SELECTED FOR THE SECOND AND FIFTH ROUNDS		
PROVISION OF THE CONVENTION	STATES REPORTING BEST PRACTICES	NUMBER OF PRACTICES
COMPREHENSION BY PUBLIC SERVANTS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND ETHICAL RULES	 CANADA	1
	 CHILE	1
	 COLOMBIA	1
	 COSTA RICA	1
	 UNITED STATES	1
	 HONDURAS	3
	 JAMAICA	2
	 MEXICO	1
	 PERU	1
	 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1
	 SURINAME	1
	 GUATEMALA	1
TOTAL	12 countries	15 practices
STUDY OF PREVENTION MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EQUITABLE COMPENSATION AND PROBITY	 UNITED STATES	1
	 PERU	1
TOTAL	2 countries	2 practices

As set out in the Table above, during the Fifth Round, 16 States Parties to the MESICIC, in their responses to the questionnaire, cited 35 topics that they regard as a best practice, in 5 areas addressed by the Convention. These best practices are posted on the MESICIC website, along with the response to the questionnaire and country reports, at: <https://www.oas.org/en/sla/dlc/mesicic/default.asp>

States can be consult them in detail, so they can make use of them as they see fit, in accordance with their own particular circumstances.

During the fifth round, 16 states parties to the mesicic, in their responses to the questionnaire, cited 35 topics that they regard as a best practice, in 5 areas addressed by the Convention.

XI. RECOGNITION OF THE USEFULNESS OF THE IACAC AND OF THE MESICIC

The usefulness of the IACAC has been acknowledged on numerous occasions, which is why, in the document entitled the “Lima Commitment,” adopted at the Eighth Summit of the Americas in April 2018, the Heads of State and of Government of the Americas reaffirmed their commitment to that Convention and, as will be detailed in Chapter XII of the present report, undertook to continue strengthening its follow-up mechanism (MESICIC).

Furthermore, prior to the Eighth Summit of the Americas, at the last meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC, held in Washington, D.C., in December 2015, those States unanimously voiced their satisfaction with the progress made by the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC, pointing, inter alia, to the successful conclusion of the first four rounds of review during which 114 reports were adopted. Those reports review the implementation by each of the States Parties of the provisions in the Convention selected for review in those rounds and formulate concrete recommendations for reinforcing their legal and institutional frameworks in those areas and making them more effective.

(...) the total number of reports adopted by the committee is now 143 and the usefulness of the recommendations they contain has been manifested in numerous actions undertaken by the member states of the mesicic to combat corruption.

In that regard, it is worth noting that, as of the date of this report and following completion of the Fifth Round of Review, the total number of reports adopted by the Committee is now 143 and the usefulness of the recommendations they contain has been manifested in numerous actions undertaken by the member states of the MESICIC to combat corruption. Appendix II to this report, for instance, lists and summarizes a large number of the actions reported by States to implement the recommendations formulated to them by the Committee in the Second Round and which the Committee itself regards as evidence of progress.

The usefulness of the recommendations made in the Committee's report is likewise reflected in numerous laws and/or measures to strengthen the legal framework of a State for fighting corruption (and/or in the draft laws prior to their adoption), many of which make express mention of the IACAC and/or of the Committee's recommendations as laying the foundations for the provisions they contain, and providing a solid basis for supporting them, thereby facilitating their adoption. Appendix II to this report lists numerous legal provisions, including laws, many of which were prompted by the recommendations of the MESICIC.

THE IACAC AND/OR THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE ALSO HELPED STRENGTHEN A STATE'S INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR FIGHTING CORRUPTION.

- » For example, a Decree of February 2016, establishing Paraguay's Transparency and Anti-Corruption Network, refers expressly to the IACAC and to the MESICIC, while;
- » The 2018-2019 Anti-Corruption Plan of the Office of the Ombudsperson of Peru likewise cites the IACAC.

IN THE SAME VEIN, STATES HAVE UTILIZED THE IACAC AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE IN THE PREPARATION OF STUDIES AND/OR ANALYSIS FOR COMBATING CORRUPTION.

- » For instance, the Report of the Presidential Advisory Council against Conflict of Interest, Influence Peddling, and Corruption (known as the "Engel Commission Report") in Chile, in April 2015, explicitly mentions the IACAC as one of the commitments the country has entered into with respect to preventing, regulating, and monitoring corruption-related phenomena. It also specifically cites the MESICIC in connection with the identification of risk areas relating to regulation and capacity to prosecute corruption offenses in Chile and in connection with the detection of conflicts of interest.

COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THE USEFULNESS OF THE LEGAL COOPERATION TOOLS THAT THE MESICIC HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO STATES TO ASSIST THEM WITH IMPLEMENTING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, SUCH AS LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES AND MODEL LAWS ON TOPICS COVERED BY THE CONVENTION.

- » Examples of such tools include, the "Model Law to Facilitate and Encourage the Reporting of Acts of Corruption and to Protect Whistleblowers and Witnesses" and the "Model Law on the Declaration of Interests, Income, Assets and Liabilities of Persons Performing Public Functions."
- » In that regard, and to illustrate the attention that has been provided to the aforementioned legal cooperation tools, it is worth noting that an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) document of October 2018, entitled "Conflict of Interest: Challenges and Opportunities to Implement an Effective System," refers to the IACAC and expressly mentions the aforementioned "Model Law on the Declaration of Interests, Income, Assets and Liabilities of Persons Performing Public Functions."

SIMILARLY, IN RECOGNITION OF THE USEFULNESS OF THE “MODEL LAW TO FACILITATE AND ENCOURAGE THE REPORTING OF ACTS OF CORRUPTION AND TO PROTECT WHISTLEBLOWERS AND WITNESSES,” THE COUNTRIES ATTENDING THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS HAD AGREED TO REFER TO THIS MODEL LAW AS A GUIDE FOR COUNTRIES THAT RECEIVED RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS ISSUE, IN THE COUNTRY REPORTS ADOPTED IN THE FIFTH ROUND OF REVIEW.

ADDITIONALLY, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT NOT ONLY STATES HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THE USEFULNESS OF THE IACAC AND THE MESICIC, BUT ALSO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, ACADEMICS, THINK TANKS, AND A VARIETY OF ORGANIZATIONS.

- » For instance, the Inter-American Dialogue document of February 2017 entitled “Beyond the Scandals: The Changing Context of Corruption in Latin America,” which, apart from referring to the IACAC and the MESICIC and stating that it was the IACAC that “paved the way for the adoption of a series of international conventions designed to promote transparency and combat bribery and organized crime,” underscored that civil society organizations can also participate in the corruption review by providing information.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING ANTI-CORRUPTION ISSUES HAVE ALSO POINTED TO THE USEFULNESS OF THE IACAC AND THE MESICIC, AS THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES DEMONSTRATE:

- » A report by the Implementation Review Group of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, at its tenth session, held in Vienna (Austria) in May 2019, not only alludes to the MESICIC, but also underscores the synergies being generated between the technical secretariats of the MESICIC, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the United Nations Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), and the OECD.
- » An OECD report entitled “Public Integrity in Latin America and the Caribbean 2018-2019: From reactive governments to proactive States” recognizes Latin American and the Caribbean as pioneers for having adopted the IACAC, which was the first international treaty on the subject.

- » A United Nations guideline for drafting the checklist for self-assessment of the implementation of Chapter II (preventive measures) and Chapter V (recovery of assets) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, of June 2016, asks States Parties to include, in the information they provide, information regarding analysis of those topics conducted by other international mechanisms (such as the MESICIC).

FINALLY, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT, IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 2017 EDITION OF THE SPANISH NEWSPAPER EL PAÍS, ENTITLED “ONE TREATY THAT WAS MORE THAN A DEAD LETTER,” THE OAS SECRETARY GENERAL, LUIS ALMAGRO, HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IACAC AND THE MESICIC, WHEN HE WROTE:

- » “...the Inter-American Convention against Corruption [constituted] a milestone in that field, at a time when many still maintained that corruption was the exclusive concern of each national State.” [...] “The MESICIC helps close the gap between the Convention and day-to-day life in the signatories to the Convention. For that reason, its analysis focus on such crucial areas as: conflicts of interest; public servants and the declarations of their assets; access to information and civil society participation; companies’ internal controls; legal characterization of such acts as transnational bribery and illicit enrichment; protection of whistleblowers; and mutual assistance for bringing perpetrators to trial...”

XII. THE EIGHTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE MESICIC

At the Eighth Summit of the Americas, held in Lima, Peru, in April 2018, the Heads of State and Government of the countries in our Hemisphere adopted the document “Lima Commitment” on “Democratic Governance against Corruption,” in which, inter alia, they reaffirmed their commitment to the treaties on that subject, such as the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, and assigned important mandates to the MESICIC that are set forth in paragraphs 46, 47, and 49 of the Commitment and are listed below, along with the progress made with implementing them by the time this Report was written.

12.1. THE MANDATES ASSIGNED TO THE MESICIC AND PROGRESS WITH THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

Paragraph 46. “CALLING UPON MESICIC TO PROMOTE INSTRUMENTS FOR THE EXCHANGE AND DISSEMINATION OF BEST PRACTICES, TECHNICAL CAPACITIES, AND MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS TO PREVENT AND COMBAT CORRUPTION THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.”

As noted in Chapter X of this Report, the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC adopted a methodology in 2018 that incorporates the aspects contained in the above mandate and that it began applying in September of that year. That methodology regulates the presentation by States on best practices for preventing and combating corruption; their compilation and dissemination via the MESICIC website; promoting their use; and information regarding States willing to receive and share technical assistance in their implementation.

The best practices that have been presented in accordance with that Methodology since September 2018, when it began to be applied, were already described in Chapter X of this Report and, given the ongoing nature of this mandate, States are to continue exchanging best practices and taking steps to benefit of their use.

Paragraph 47. “CALLING UPON MESICIC TO COORDINATE WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION BODIES SO AS TO FOSTER SYNERGIES AND TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION”

In order to lay the foundations for coordination and encourage synergies with other international organizations combating corruption, the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC invited the OECD, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the United Nations, and the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group to its meeting in September 2018, in order to

achieve a clear sense of how their anti-corruption mechanisms function and of opportunities for coordination, identifying common ground, and ways to increase mutual collaboration.



MESICIC experts from Canada and Brazil during the discussion of the Bahamas, Belize and Suriname reports, at the 31st Meeting of the Committee of Experts, September 2018.

An early example of that came in October 2018 with the participation by the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC in the First Meeting of the Latin America and Caribbean Anti-Corruption Officials' Law Enforcement Network, "Red LAC LEN", held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in response to an invitation by the OECD. Later, in September 2019, it took part in that Network's Second Meeting, held in Brasilia.

The Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC also participated in the Regional High-level Anti-Corruption Conference organized by the United Nations and held in Cartagena, Colombia, in May 2019, and in the First Meeting of International Instruments and Mechanisms related to Preventing and Combating Corruption of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, held in Mexico City, in May 2019.

Continuing its joint activities with other international anti-corruption mechanisms, the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC held a panel discussion at its plenary meeting in September 2019, in Washington D.C., to which it invited the United Nations, the OECD, and the Council of Europe- GRECO to provide information together with the MESICIC on ways to exchange best anti-corruption practices among their respective member states, in order to encourage all of them to make the most of such practices.

The aforementioned are examples of initial steps taken to implement this mandate, because more activities are needed to ensure that mutual advantage is taken of the developments that have been taking place in the various international bodies focusing on preventing and fighting corruption.

Paragraph 49. "CALLING UPON MESICIC TO DEVELOP, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS SPHERE OF COMPETENCE, AN INITIATIVE FOR OBSERVING AND MEASURING ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICIES, WITH A VIEW TO FORMULATING ANTI-CORRUPTION INDICATORS, PROMOTING CORRUPTION PREVENTION MECHANISMS, EVALUATING THE IMPACT AND PROGRESS OF PUBLIC POLICIES, CONSOLIDATING A DATABASE OF REGIONAL BEST PRACTICES, AND CONDUCTING PROMPT RISK ANALYSIS"

Regarding the foregoing -- and most complex -- mandate, the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC began by addressing one of the fundamental aspects addressed by the Mechanism (because it is contemplated in the Convention), namely that regarding criminal sanctions for acts of corruption, bearing in mind the importance of preventing such acts from going unpunished.

To that end, at its plenary meeting in September 2019, the Committee began giving consideration to a mechanism proposed by the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC for compiling a set of indicators to help States objectively determine their results with respect to the investigation, prosecution, adjudication, and punishment of acts of corruption, along with the factors influencing those results. It would also to receive early warnings of risks, which would allow States to take timely corrective measures, as needed, to avoid those acts going unpunished.

The above would represent a qualitative leap forward in measuring corruption, as it would provide objective indicators of impunity for acts of corruption, when one considers that up to now, the indicators most commonly used for that purpose have been based on such tools such as surveys of people's perceptions. Moreover, the new indicators would help to determine not just the extent of impunity, but also the specific factors underlying it, which might thus be corrected in time.

Once these indicators are finalized, other areas of the Convention will be addressed, so as to comply with the aforementioned mandate.

12.2. THE MANDATE TO ENHANCE THE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE MESICIC AND PROGRESS MADE IN THAT REGARD

At the Eighth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and of Government not only assigned mandates to the MESICIC. They were also conscious of the need for the Mechanism to be provided with the resources it needs to meet its new responsibilities. For that reason, in paragraph 45 of the "Lima Commitment" they stated their resolve to "[Continue] to strengthen the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), by identifying resources to bolster its operations with a view to more efficiently addressing the new challenges that corruption poses in the Hemisphere."

In the preparatory meetings for the Forty-Eighth Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly, the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Panama, and Peru presented a proposal, co-sponsored by the delegations of The Bahamas, Canada, Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, and the United States, for complying with the aforementioned mandate, which was adopted by consensus and embodied in General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2927 (XLVIII-O/18) on "Strengthening Democracy" (Section I, sub-section V) on "Follow-up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and on the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption," as set out in operative paragraph No. 6:

"To request that the General Secretariat submit a proposal to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), subject to availability of resources, to increase the allocation from the OAS regular budget assigned to the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC, bearing in mind the commitment to "continuing to strengthen the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American

Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), by identifying resources to bolster its operations with a view to more efficiently addressing the new challenges that corruption poses in the Hemisphere,” assumed by the Heads of State and Government in paragraph 45 in the Lima Commitment, adopted at the Eighth Summit of the Americas. The methods and the amount to be used for the above purposes, without implying an increase in quotas, will be included in the resolution on the funding of the Organization and in the OAS program-budget for 2019.”

It is hoped that the financial sustainability of the mesicic will be strengthened as provided for at the Eighth Summit of the Americas, so as to ensure that it is in a position to carry out the new actions required of it in the mandates conferred on it by said summit and in others issued by its conference of the States Parties.

In view of the above, and even though it has not been possible to obtain resources from the OAS Regular Fund in addition to those allocated to the MESICIC prior to the above mandate, on a regular basis,²⁴ it is hoped that the financial sustainability of the MESICIC will be strengthened as provided for at the Eighth Summit of the Americas, so as to ensure that it is in a position to carry out the new actions required of it in the mandates conferred on it by said Summit and in others issued by its Conference

of the States Parties. This would be consistent with the new Strategic Vision of the OAS (adopted through resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14), which envisages fighting corruption as one of the priority areas of the OAS).

The Committee, however, considers it appropriate to emphasize that if the MESICIC is not financially strengthened, given its scarce resources, its sustainability and the activities it carries out for the benefit of its member States are at risk.

In light of the foregoing, the Committee reiterates the need for the MESICIC to be financially strengthened, not only through additional resources from the OAS Regular Fund, but also with voluntary contributions from its member states. In this regard, the Committee appreciates and considers an example to be followed that during the course of the Fifth Round, the following countries have made voluntary contributions to the MESICIC: Argentina, Canada, Chile, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States.

24 Although an additional allocation of US\$160,000 for the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC was included in the OAS Regular Fund budget for 2019, it was excluded from the budget for 2020.

XIII. COLLECTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee offers these recommendations under Article 30 of its Rules of Procedure, which states that the Hemispheric Report is to include, inter alia, recommendations of a collective nature, both as regards following up on the results of said reports and regarding the recommended actions for consolidating or strengthening hemispheric cooperation on the issues addressed in the provisions under consideration in each round or closely related to them.

13.1 REGARDING THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE RESULTS OF THE REPORTS

The purpose of the collective recommendations on the follow-up of the results of the country reports adopted in the Fifth Round is to encourage the MESICIC Member States to take the specific actions necessary for implementing the recommendations formulated to each one of them in those reports, as well as those that arose as a result of the follow-up on the not-yet-implemented recommendations made to them in the Second Round and as a result of the review of new developments in countries with regard to the Convention provisions selected for that Round.

Bearing this in mind, the Committee believes that the following collective recommendations should be issued:

- a. Adequately and broadly disseminate the country reports, so that the authorities or bodies responsible for implementation, and civil society, are made aware of the information and recommendations they contain.
- b. Identify a body, authority, or agency to be responsible for pursuing the process of recommendation implementation.
- c. Clearly identify the tasks that each of the competent authorities and agencies is to perform in pursuit of recommendation implementation, so they can undertake the activities required for performance of those tasks.
- d. Make the authorities or agencies charged with implementing the recommendations more aware of the responsibilities incumbent on them in compliance with a commitment that their country has acquired with the international community.
- e. Provide the coordination mechanisms necessary for the harmonious development of the recommendation implementation process, with the relevant participation by the competent authorities or agencies.

- f. Encourage civil society participation in the process of implementing the recommendations, so that the process can be enriched with contributions by them.
- g. Determine actions needed to overcome difficulties encountered, both in connection with implementing the Convention provisions reviewed in the Fifth Round and with regard to implementation of the recommendations formulated in the Second Round, resorting to that end, as needed, the international cooperation envisaged in the Convention and, attempting, in particular, to benefit of the best practices shared by other States within the MESICIC framework.
- h. Design and develop a plan of action or other procedure for planning the activities required to implement the recommendations, establish execution responsibilities, and monitor their performance.
- i. Adopt indicators for the objective measuring of progress with the tasks needed for implementation of the recommendations.
- j. Gather full, exact, and relevant information on progress with recommendation implementation, so it can be conveyed to the Committee clearly and succinctly on the occasions indicated in the Rules of Procedure in order for it to fully discharge its follow-up duties.

With the aforementioned collective recommendations, the Committee reaffirms the view expressed in the hemispheric reports of previous rounds that implementing the recommendations requires joint efforts by the various branches and agencies of the State.

13.2 TYPE OF ACTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR CONSOLIDATING OR STRENGTHENING HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION ON THE TOPICS COVERED BY OR CLOSELY RELATED TO THE CONVENTION PROVISION SELECTED FOR THE FIFTH ROUND

The purpose of these collective recommendations is to encourage member states of the MESICIC to undertake the specific actions necessary to consolidate or strengthen hemispheric cooperation on matters related to the IACAC provisions selected for the Fifth Round and to those closely related to them.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that all countries:

- WITH REGARD TO THE PROVISION IN THE CONVENTION THAT REFERS TO INSTRUCTIONS TO PERSONNEL IN GOVERNMENT ENTITIES THAT ENSURE THEY HAVE A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND OF ETHICAL RULES (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 8, OF THE CONVENTION):

a. Take advantage of the entities and authorities in the various countries that provide training for public servants and that are identified on the agendas of the on-site visits attached to the corresponding country reports, so that through those entities and authorities, they can exchange knowledge and experiences on the subject and explore opportunities for conducting joint activities, either face-to-face or using new electronic communication technology.

b. Bear in mind that some States expressly indicated in their responses to the Fifth Round questionnaire, and during the on-site visits, the need for technical cooperation for training personnel in some of their government agencies in a number of aspects related to their functions, as set out in the country reports, that States offer any assistance that can be provided, to the extent possible and within available resources.

c. Take advantage of the best practices that States have identified with respect to instructions that ensure proper understanding of their government personnel and the ethical rules governing their activities mentioned in Chapter X of this Report, and regarding which more information can be obtained from the contacts countries have identified for that purpose.

d. Take advantage of the legal and other measures adopted by countries to strengthen their training programs for government personnel, as set out in the country reports, to the extent that they are compatible with each State's own legal and institutional order and bearing in mind each country's similarities and particular circumstances.

e. Take advantage of the studies, analysis, and opinions, identified in the country reports that civil society organizations, private sector organizations, professional associations, and academics and researchers have developed with regard to the manner different countries provide instructions to government personnel regarding their responsibilities and ethical rules.

• WITH REGARD TO THE CONVENTION PROVISION ON THE STUDY OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES THAT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EQUITABLE COMPENSATION AND PROBITY IN PUBLIC SERVICE (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 12, OF THE CONVENTION):

a. Take advantage of the entities and authorities in the various countries that are responsible for establishing criteria for determining the salary of the public sector that are identified in the agendas of the on-site visits attached to the corresponding country reports, so that through those agencies and authorities, knowledge, studies, and experiences can be exchanged on the subject, especially on the link between equitable compensation and probity in public service.

b. Take advantage of the best practices, mentioned in Chapter X of this Report, that States have identified with respect to establishing compensation for their public servants and regarding which more information can be obtained from the contacts countries identified for that purpose.

- c. Take advantage of the legal and other measures adopted by countries to determine the compensation of public servants, which are described in the country reports, to the extent that they are compatible and relevant with each State's own legal and institutional order, and bearing in mind each country's similarities and particular circumstances.
- d. Take advantage of the studies, analysis, and opinions, identified in the country reports, that civil society organizations, private sector organizations, professional associations, and academics and researchers have developed with regard to the manner in which different countries determine the salary of public servants and which are identified in the country reports.

Finally, with regard to both paragraphs 8 and 12 of Article III of the Convention, the Committee recommends that all countries use the Anti-Corruption Portal of the Americas on the MESICIC page of the OAS website to access the legal cooperation tools that its Technical Secretariat has developed to assist them with implementing the IACAC. In addition, it should make use of the Portal to obtain up-to-date information on all the anti-corruption activities carried on within the framework of MESICIC, including the Fifth-Round country reports, the responses provided by States to the questionnaire, the best practices provided by countries, and the studies, analysis, and opinions of civil society organizations, private sector organizations, professional associations, academics, and researchers referred to in previous sections of this Report.

XIV. PARTICIPATION OF THE MESICIC IN OTHER ACTIVITIES



2nd Meeting of the Latin America and Caribbean Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Network, organized by the OECD and Brazil, where MESICIC Experts and the Technical Secretariat participated. September 2019, Brasilia, Brazil.

During the Fifth Round of Review, other activities were also carried on within the MESICIC framework which, although not conducted by the Committee of Experts and are therefore not mentioned in Section 5.6 of this Report, merit attention considering their importance for achieving the purposes of both the Mechanism and the Committee. Those activities are:

- The Technical Secretariat's participation in the First Forum of Representatives of the Judiciary on Cooperation against Corruption, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in October 2019.
- The Technical Secretariat's participation in the Second Meeting of the Latin America and Caribbean Anti-Corruption Officials' Law Enforcement Network, "Red LAC LEN", held in Brasilia, Brazil, in September 2019.
- The Technical Secretariat's participation in the seminar "Doing Business in Latin America and the Caribbean: Respect for Human Rights and the Fight against Corruption," held in Washington, D.C. in August 2019.
- The Technical Secretariat's participation in the event called "Innovating in the Fight against Corruption using Open Data in the Americas," held in Medellín, Colombia, in June 2019.
- The participation by the Technical Secretariat and representatives of the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC at the Regional High-level Anti-Corruption Conference organized by the United Nations and held in Cartagena, Colombia, in May 2019.
- The participation by the Technical Secretariat and representatives of the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC at the First Meeting of Presidents, Governing Bodies and Secretariats of Instruments relating to Preventing and Combating Corruption to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Mérida Convention), held within the G-20 framework in Mexico City, in May 2019.
- The Technical Secretariat's participation in the OAS Diploma Course: Governance, Management, and Public Leadership in the Inter-American System, in which it delivered the course on "The Fight against Corruption - MESICIC", held in Washington, D.C. in March 2019.

- The Technical Secretariat's participation in the Inaugural Meeting of the Latin America and Caribbean Anti-Corruption Officials' Law Enforcement Network, "Red LAC LEN", held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in October 2018.
- The Technical Secretariat's participation in the seminar "Doing Business in Latin America and the Caribbean: Respect for Human Rights and the Fight against Corruption," held in Washington, D.C. in August 2018.
- The participation by the Technical Secretariat and representatives of the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC at the preparatory meetings of the Eighth Summit of the Americas, in which the core theme was corruption, held in Lima, Peru, in December 2017 and February and April 2018.



Regional Anti-Corruption Conference for South America and Mexico, organized by the UN and Colombia, May 2019, Cartagena, Colombia.

- The Technical Secretariat's participation in the meeting on the International Convention against Corruption of the United Nations, held in Panama City, Panama, in December 2016.
- The Technical Secretariat's participation in the workshop entitled "Enhancing Synergies and Sharing Best Practices: International Anti-Corruption Monitoring Bodies," held in Paris, France, in September 2016.
- The Technical Secretariat's participation in the Anti-Corruption Business Forum, organized by the Employers Confederation of Mexico (COPARMEX), in Mexico City, in August 2016.

XV. ANNEXES

ANNEX I

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THAT PRESENTED DOCUMENTS AND PARTICIPATED IN THE ON-SITE VISITS

COUNTRY	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THAT PRESENTED DOCUMENTS
 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federación Interamericana de Abogados (FIA) (Documento de la Comisión del Cumplimiento de la CICC) • Foro de Estudios sobre la Administración de Justicia (FORES) • Fundación Poder Ciudadano
 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chile Transparente
 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funsocial Crecer Colombia
 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asociación Costa Rica Integra
 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo • Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho • Universidad de El Salvador • Iniciativa Social para la Democracia
 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acción Ciudadana, Capítulo Nacional de Transparencia Internacional
 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana

COUNTRY	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE ON-SITE VISITS
 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comisión del Cumplimiento de la CICC • Fundación Poder Ciudadano • Directorio Legislativo • Centro de implementación de Políticas Públicas (CIPPEC)
 BAHAMAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization for Responsible Governance
 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organización Matriz de Mujeres “Juana Azurduy de Padilla”
 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparencia Internacional
 CANADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency International Canada • GOPAC
 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chile Transparente
 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporación Transparencia por Colombia • Corporación Excelencia para la Justicia • Funsocial Crecer Colombia
 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asociación Costa Rica Integra
 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veeduría Ciudadana para verificar el adecuado desarrollo de las etapas de la Subasta Inversa Corporativa de Medicamentos (SCIM -2015)
 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo • Iniciativa Social para la Democracia

 UNITED STATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington • Government Accountability Project • Public Citizen
 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acción Ciudadana, Capítulo Nacional de Transparencia Internacional • Guatemala Visible • Guatecívica • CEIDEPAZ • Centro Internacional de Investigaciones en Derechos Humanos (CIIDH)
 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency Institute of Guyana (TIGI)
 HAITI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative de la Société Civile (ISC)
 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asociación para una Sociedad más Justa (ASJ) • Oposición Indignada
 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Integrity Action • Jamaica Civil Society Forum
 MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparencia Mexicana
 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia • Movimiento Independiente (MOVIN)
 PARAGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centro de Información y Recursos para el Desarrollo (CIRD) • Contraloría Ciudadana de Asunción • Centro de Estudios Judiciales (CEJ) • Centro de Estudios Ambientales (CEAMSO)

 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grupo de Trabajo Contra la Corrupción (GTCC)
 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participación Ciudadana • Fundación Justicia y Transparencia
 SAINT KITTS & NEVIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Youth Parliament (Parlamento Nacional Juvenil)
 SURINAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sticing Projekta
 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute
 URUGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centro de Archivo y Acceso a la Información Pública • Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo • Uruguay Transparente
COUNTRY	PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE ON-SITE VISITS
 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Antigua & Barbuda Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Cámara de Comercio e Indústria de Antigua y Barbuda)
 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unión Argentina de Proveedores del Estado (UAPE)
 BAHAMAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation
 BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Commerce and Industry

 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confederación de Empresarios Privados de Bolivia (CEPB) • Confederación Nacional de la Micro y Pequeña Empresa de Bolivia - (CONAMYPE).
 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instituto Ethos de Empresas de Responsabilidad Social
 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEDESAROLLO
 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cámara de Comercio de Costa Rica • Cámara Costarricense de la Construcción
 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federación Ecuatoriana de Industrias del Metal (FEDIMETAL)
 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cámara de Comercio e Industria de El Salvador • Asociación Nacional de la Empresa Privada
 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundación para el Desarrollo de Guatemala (FUNDESA)
 GRENADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce (Cámara de la Industria y Comercio de Grenada)
 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consejo Hondureño de la Empresa Privada (COHEP) • Asociación Nacional de Industriales • Cámara Hondureña de la Industria de la Construcción (CHICO)
 MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unidad Industrial Iztapalapa • International Chamber of Commerce (ICC - México) • Consejo Coordinador Empresarial

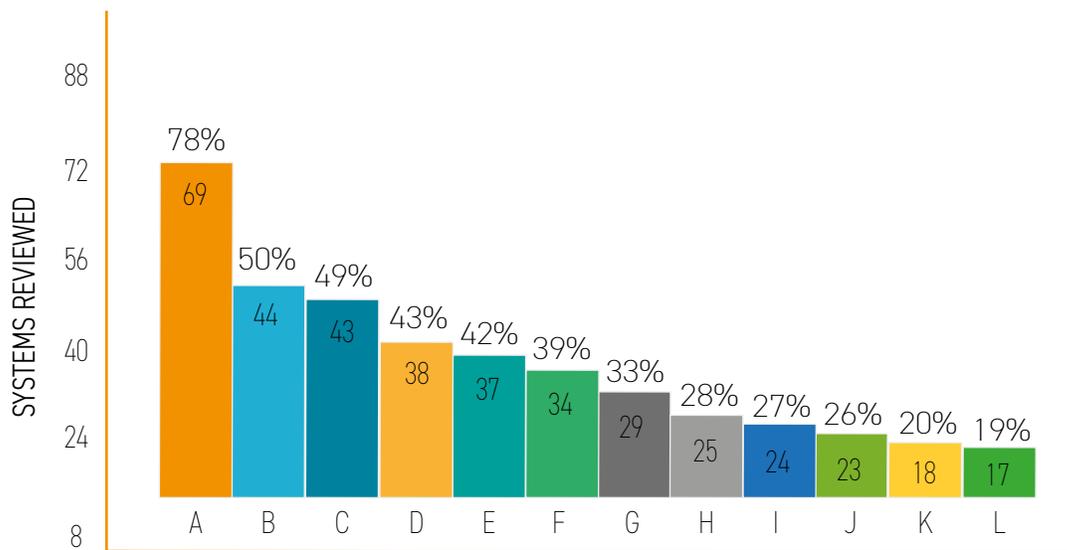
 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confederación Nacional de Instituciones Empresariales Privadas (CONFIEP) • Sociedad Nacional de Industria • Cámara de Comercio de Lima
 SAINT KITTS & NEVIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saint Kitts and Nevis Chamber of Commerce (Camara de Comercio de San Kitts y Nevis)
 ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Industry and Commerce
 SURINAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suriname Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KKF) • Suriname Trade and Industry Association (VSB)
COUNTRY	PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE ON-SITE VISITS
 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Antigua Trades and Labour Union (Sindicato de Comercio y Trabajo de Antigua) (ATLU) • Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association (Asociacion del Servicio Público de Antigua y Barbuda (ASPSA) • Antigua and Barbuda Contractor's Association (Asociación de Contratistas de Antigua y Barbuda) • The Antigua and Barbuda Bar Association (Colegio de Abogados de Antigua y Barbuda)
 BAHAMAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bahamas Public Service Union

 BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colegio de Abogados de Belize • Sindicato del Sector Público • Congreso Nacional de Sindicatos de Belize (NTUCB)
 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colegio de Contadores de Bolivia • Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores Petroleros de Bolivia
 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orden de Abogados de Brasil (OAB) • Asociación de Jueces Federales de Brasil (AJUFE)
 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Interamericana de Educación en Administración Pública • Espacio Público
 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colegio de Abogados y Abogadas de Costa Rica
 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios y Empleados de la Fiscalía General del Estado (AFEMPE) • Federación de Trabajadores Petroleros del Ecuador (FETRAPEC) • Central Unitaria de Trabajadores del Ecuador (CUT)
 GRENADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grenada Bar Association (Barra de Abogados de Grenada)
 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guyana Association of Women Lawyers (GAWL) • Guyana Public Service Union (Unión del Servicio Público de Guyana)
 HAITI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confédération Nationale des Éducateurs et Éducatrices d'Haïti (CNEH) • Confédération des Travailleurs Haïtiens (CTH)

ANEXO II

GRAPHS ON SOME OF THE MOST COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION SELECTED FOR THE SECOND ROUND, RESULTING FROM THE FOLLOW UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO THEM IN THE FIFTH ROUND, AND FROM NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THOSE PROVISIONS REVIEWED IN THIS ROUND

1. SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT HIRING (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 5, OF THE CONVENTION)



A. Compile and publish detailed annual statistics on the results of selection processes of public servants.

B. Compile and publish detailed annual statistics on administrative and judicial proceedings relating to challenges made against the outcomes of selection processes.

C. Adopt, as a general rule for filling public administration positions, selection by means of a merit-based system.

D. Establish or strengthen the governing authority responsible for the regulation, administration,

development or oversight of the system for entry into public service.

E. Establish or strengthen challenge mechanisms intended to clarify, modify, or annul the substantive actions carried out during a merit-based selection process.

F. Define the manner in which selection should be carried in the merit-based system.

G. Set timeframes for the publication of notices announcing competitions for filling vacancies by means of the merit-based system.

H. Adopt provisions which establish or strengthen appropriate control mechanisms to ensure strict compliance with the rules for personnel selection in the public service.

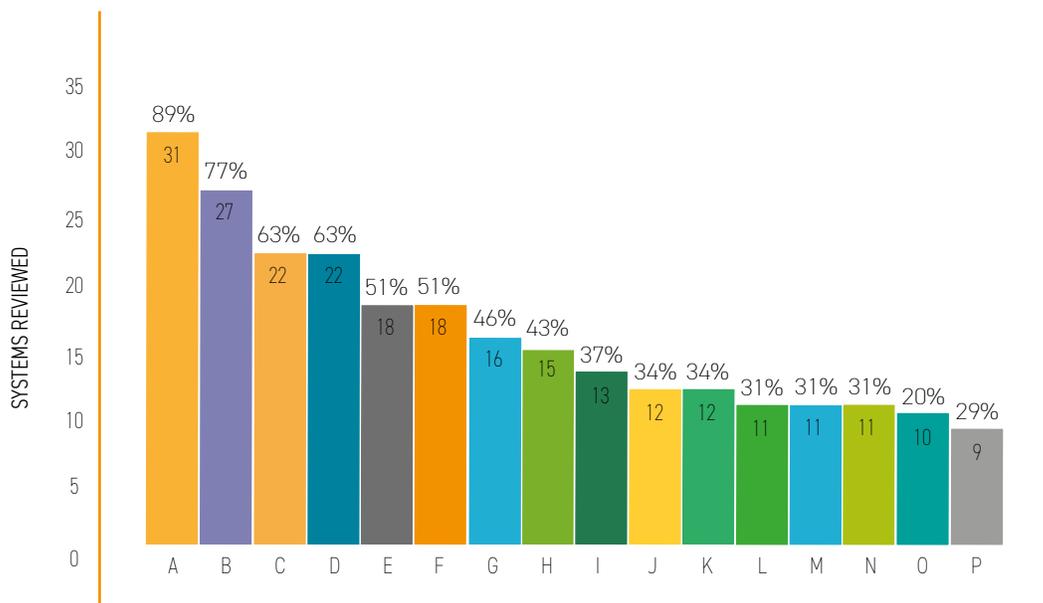
I. Broadly disseminate the notices announcing merit-based competitions for filling positions.

J. Issue, update and/or publish the classification and/or job description manuals.

K. Enact provisions on hiring of public servants, as prescribed by higher ranking norms, such as constitutional or legal precepts.

L. Adopt measures to avoid the indefinite prolonging and permanence in the public service of individuals hired through temporary appointments.

2. GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES (ARTICLE 3, PARAGRAPH 5, OF THE CONVENTION)

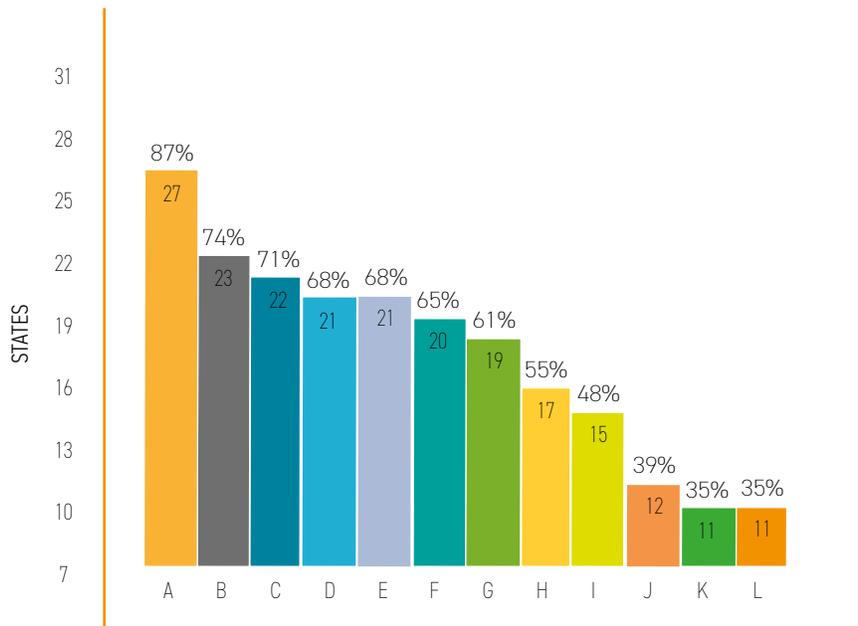


A. Establish or strengthen the governing authority responsible for the regulation, administration, development or oversight of the oversight of the public contracting system.

B. Compile detailed annual statistical information on the outcomes of government procurement systems.

- C.** Compile detailed annual statistical information on sanctions imposed for breaches of procurement rules..
- D.** Create, implement or strengthen electronic systems for carrying out government contracting.
- E.** Create or strengthen a central registry of contractors.
- F.** Establish or strengthen challenge mechanisms intended to clarify, modify or annul the substantive decisions adopted during the contracting process.
- G.** Complement or strengthen mechanisms for oversight of contracting activity.
- H.** Strengthen and expand the use of electronic media and other information systems to disseminate contracting activity.
- I.** Adopt measures to ensure the use of public bidding as the general rule for public procurement.
- J.** Specify the objective factors or selection criteria for the evaluation of bids, require that the results of that evaluation be justified, and reported to interested parties.
- K.** Specify the reasons used as the basis for exceptions to public bidding.
- L.** Enact provisions on government procurement of goods and services, as prescribed by higher ranking norms, such as constitutional or legal precepts.
- M.** Develop or strengthen provisions which regulate the procurement of public works.
- N.** Adopt measures to ensure that procurement procedures that are not public bidding, observe the principles of openness, equity, and efficiency as provided for by the Convention. .
- O.** Publish draft bidding terms.
- P.** Conduct comprehensive periodic assessments to allow the use and effectiveness of the public sector procurement system to be measured, and adopt measures which ensure its transparency, openness, equity, and efficiency.

3. SYSTEMS FOR PROTECTING PUBLIC SERVANTS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO, IN GOOD FAITH, REPORT ACTS OF CORRUPTION (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 8, OF THE CONVENTION)



A. Establish mechanisms to facilitate international cooperation in the area of protection.

B. Adopt protective measures, aimed not only the physical integrity of the whistleblower and their family, but also their employment situation.

C. Adopt a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework that provides protection of public servants and private citizens who report acts of corruption in the administrative sphere, taking into account the Model Law of the Committee on the topic.

D. Adopt a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework that provides protection of public servants and private citizens who report acts of corruption in judicial proceedings,

taking into account the Model Law of the Committee on the topic.

E. Establish mechanisms for reporting the threats or reprisals that whistleblowers may face.

F. Establish reporting mechanisms, such as anonymous reporting and identity-protected reporting.

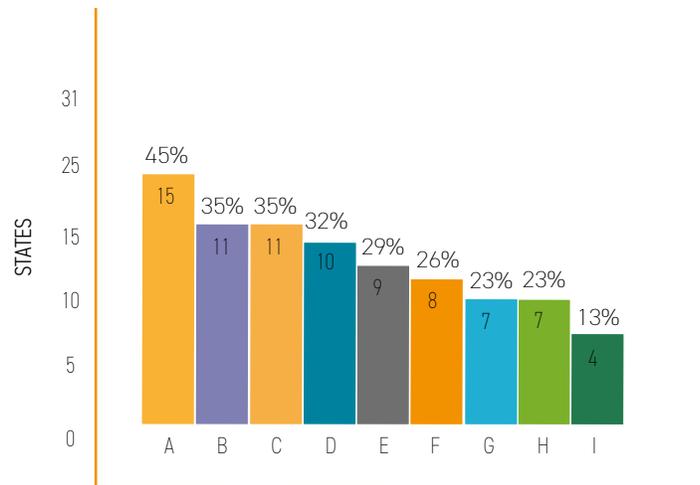
G. Adopt protective measures for those who report acts of corruption that may be the subject of either administrative or judicial investigation.

H. Simplify formalities for requesting protection for whistleblowers.

I. Adopt such measures as are needed to ensure the availability of resources for guaranteeing that measures to protect whistle-blowers are implemented.

J. Adopt provisions which sanction noncompliance.

4. ACTS OF CORRUPTION (ARTICLE VI OF THE CONVENTION)



A. Adjust the corresponding criminal provisions so that they include all of the elements listed in paragraph (a) of Article VI.1 of the Convention.

B. Adjust the corresponding criminal provisions so that they include all of the elements listed in paragraph (b) of Article VI.1 of the Convention.

C. Complement the corresponding criminal provisions so that they include the actions covered by paragraph (d) of Article VI.1 of the Convention.

D. Adjust the corresponding criminal provisions so that they include all of the elements listed in paragraph (c) of Article VI.1 of the Convention.

E. Adjust the corresponding criminal provisions so that they include all of the elements listed in paragraph (e) of Article VI.1 of the Convention.

F. Broaden the concept of public official subject to the conduct set out in Article VI.1 of the Convention, so that it conforms to the definition of “Public official”, “government official”, or “public servant” used in Article I of the Convention.

G. Strengthen bodies and/or entities competent to investigate, prosecute, adjudicate, and sanction the conduct set out by Article VI.1 of the Convention.

H. Compile detailed annual statistics on the outcomes of investigations into acts of corruption.

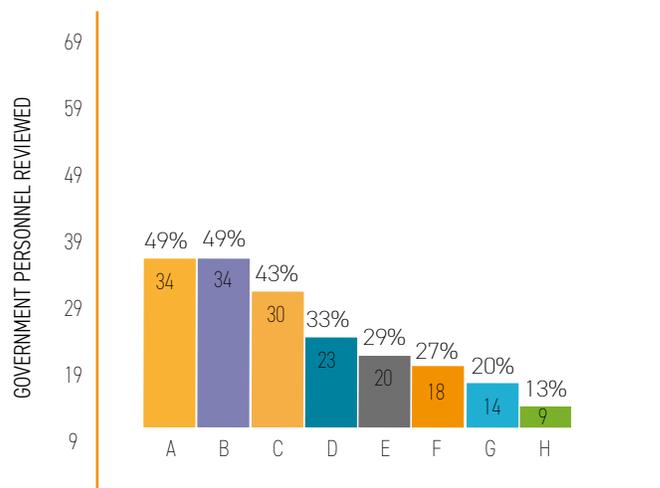
I. Compile detailed annual statistics on the outcome of judicial proceedings related to acts of corruption.

ANNEX III

GRAPHS ON SOME OF THE MOST COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE TOPICS OF THE CONVENTION SELECTED FOR THE FIFTH ROUND

1. INSTRUCTIONS TO GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL TO ENSURE PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE ETHICAL RULES GOVERNING THEIR ACTIVITIES (ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH 3, OF THE CONVENTION)

1.1 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING INSTRUCTIONS TO ENSURE PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF RESPONSIBILITIES



A. Adopt the necessary measures for personnel to ensure the proper understanding of their responsibilities and attach a copy of these responsibilities or provide links to the web pages where they can be consulted.

B. Establish a mandatory formal training program for recently hired government personnel, whether face-to-face or online, so that they can understand their responsibilities, including evaluations to ascertain the instructions are properly understood.

C. Provide training to the personnel, whenever their responsibilities change, so that they can understand their new responsibilities, including evaluations to ascertain said understanding.

D. Include in training programs of personnel, modules that make them aware of the risks of corruption inherent in the performance of their responsibilities, as well as the consequences and sanctions for those involved in acts of corruption.

E. Appoint a person or entity to whom personnel can resort to obtain information or resolve doubts about how to perform their responsibilities and functions properly.

F. Establish a governing organ responsible for defining, steering, giving guidance on, or supporting the manner in which personnel are to be informed of their responsibilities, and for seeing that this task is fully carried out, as well as measures to ensure compliance.

G. Adopt such measures as are needed to ensure the availability of resources for providing training on the responsibilities of personnel.

H. Compile detailed annual statistics on the results obtained relating to the instructions provided to personnel to ensure that they have an appropriate understanding of their responsibilities.

1.2 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING INSTRUCTIONS TO ENSURE PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF ETHICAL RULES



A. Adopt the necessary measures for personnel to ensure the proper understanding of the ethical rules and attach a copy of these rules or provide links to the web pages where they can be consulted.

B. Establish a mandatory formal training program for recently hired government personnel, whether face-to-face or online, so

that they can understand their ethical rules, including evaluations to ascertain the instructions are properly understood.

C. Provide training to the personnel, whenever their ethical rules change, so that they can understand these new rules, including evaluations to ascertain said understanding.

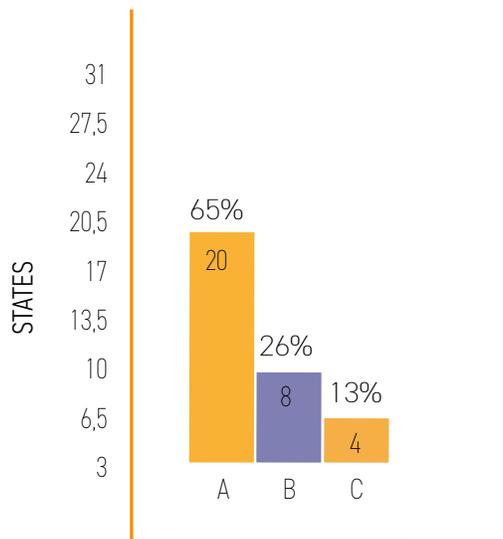
D. Appoint a person or entity to whom per-sonnel can resort to obtain information or resolve doubts about the ethical rules that they should observe.

E. Establish a governing organ responsible for defining, steering, giving guidance on, or supporting the manner in which personnel are to be informed of their ethical rules, and for seeing that this task is fully carried out, as well as measures to ensure compliance.

F. Adopt such measures as are needed to en-sure the availability of resources for providing training on the ethical rules of personnel.

G. Compile detailed annual statistics on the results obtained relating to the instructions provided to personnel to ensure that they have an appropriate understanding of their ethical rules.

2. STUDY OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES THAT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EQUITABLE COMPENSATION AND PROBITY IN PUBLIC SERVICE (ARTICLE III, PARAGPRAH 12, OF THE CONVENTION)



A. Establish a legal framework and/or poli-cy on salary that is based on objective and transparent criteria for determining equita-ble compensation of public servants

B. Post on the Internet the policies, criteria, and salary scales relating to public servants.

C. Narrow any wide salary gaps between different branches of government or public sector entities.

ANNEX IV

SUMMARY OF THE ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE COUNTRIES THAT REPRESENT PROGRESS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FORMULATED IN THE SECOND ROUND OF REVIEW²⁵

1. SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT HIRING AND PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES (ARTICLE III (5) OF THE CONVENTION)

1.1 GOVERNMENT HIRING SYSTEMS

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p style="text-align: center;">ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>ARGENTINA</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law on the Democratic and Egalitarian Entry of Personnel into the National Judiciary and National Public Prosecutors' Office. • Organic Law of the National Public Defenders' Office. • Organic Law of the National Public Prosecutors' Office. • Legal Regime governing Judges, Civil Servants, and Employees of the National Public Defenders' Office. • Organic Law of the National Public Prosecutors' Office. • Decree approving the Sectoral Collective Bargaining Agreement for Personnel in the National Government Employment System (SINEP).

²⁵ As noted in Chapter IX of this report, the actions that are summarized herein are those that the Committee has considered as constituting progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the Second Round, based on what is expressed in the country reports corresponding to the Third Round of review, in which the Committee has followed-up on the implementation of those recommendations. Accordingly, there may be other actions developed by countries in relation to the topics of the Convention to which those recommendations refer, but which, because they took place subsequent to the Committee considering in those reports that the respective country had given satisfactory consideration to a given recommendation, do not appear in this summary.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution of the Secretariat for Public Administration approving the Rules Governing Selection of Personnel for the National Government Employment System (SINEP). • 3 Decrees relating to Government Hiring Systems. • Decree replacing the Government Hiring System, establishing new profiles and a new remuneration system based on professional consultants' functions and experience. • 2 Decisions handed down by the National Judicial Council to fill vacancies for the positions of judge. • Resolution approving the enabling regulations for applying the Law on the Democratic and Egalitarian Entry of Personnel into the National Judiciary and National Public Prosecutors' Office in the National Public Prosecutors' Office. • Resolution convening open and public competitive exams for entry into the MPF's "Ancillary Services," "Administrative Specialists," and "Legal Specialists" sections. • 2 Decrees adopting the State Modernization Plan. • Decree implementing the Electronic Document Management (EDC) System. • Resolution requiring mandatory use of three EDC modules (Official Communications, Electronic Document Generator, and Electronic Files).

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	 BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Regulations.
	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Political Constitution of the State of 2009. • Legally binding circulars on strengthening procedures for recruiting and selecting public service personnel. • Decree on Basic Standards of the Goods and Services Administration System, which replaces SD No. 29190. • Ministerial Decree approving the Model Base Document for Hiring Consulting Services. • Provision of the Political Constitution of 2009 regarding the ban on appointing to public office relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity and second degree of affinity. • The Finance Law - National Budget - Fiscal Year. • Three resolutions of the Chamber of Deputies strengthening the Chamber's public servant hiring procedure. • Three resolutions of the Senate strengthening its public servant hiring procedure. • The Judiciary Law revamping the structure of that branch of government.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements reached by the Judicial Council on the criteria that have to be met to compete for adjudicatory job vacancies occurring in the Judiciary. • Organic Law of the Public Prosecution Service.
	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legally binding jurisprudential provision of the Federal Supreme Court prohibiting nepotism in all three branches of government. • Decree establishing the duty of those holding higher positions in the Federal Public Administration to disclose the existence of persons related to them in the Federal Executive Branch. • Decree prohibiting nepotism in the Federal Public Administration. • Decree issued by the state of Río de Janeiro prohibiting both direct and reciprocal nepotism within the Public Administration. • Bahía state law prohibiting nepotism in all three branches of government. • Federal Executive Branch Law passed in 2016 on the hiring of government officials. • Decree containing enabling regulations to the 2016 law on the hiring of government officials. • Decree amending the minimum percentages applicable to the appointment to fixed jobs in the Federal Executive Branch.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law of 2016 regulating civil service careers in the Federal Public Prosecutors' Office. • Resolution of the Federal Public Prosecutors' Office governing the performance of trust and fixed job positions. • Law establishing cases and terms and conditions for filling fixed job positions.
	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval by the Office of the President of the Plan for Implementing the Honesty and Transparency in Business and Politics Agenda, which makes it mandatory to use the Government Jobs Portal to issue calls for tenders. • Law to improve the Senior Public Executive System and strengthen the National Civil Service Directorate. • Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information making it mandatory to post public tenders online. • Adoption of the Minutes relating to the Supreme Court Ruling on the Appointment System in the Judiciary. • Adoption of General Terms and Conditions for Filling Positions in the Judiciary Procedure for implementing Decision (Acta) No. 184 of the Excam. Supreme Court.
	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four judgments of the Constitutional Court aligning special and specific Civil Service career systems with the general career service system.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decree Law granting full charter and legal status to the Special Career Regime of the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation.
	 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Decree amending the Civil Service Statute Regulations and reinforcing the requirement to keep the job classification list up-to-date and posted on the Internet. Approval of the Regulations on Selection and Appointment of Personnel through Internal Competitions in the Legislative Assembly.
	 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law amending the legislative career service law and the administrative career service law. Executive Decree repealing the possibility of equating years on the job (experience) with years of studies for the Administrative Career Service. Decree amending the Regulations governing the Administrative Career Service. Resolution adopting the Technical Rules of Procedure for Recruitment and Selection in public tenders/calls for candidates. Resolution adopting the Rules of Procedure for Recruitment and Selection for Promotion and Admission to the Administrative Career Service. Law governing the judicial career service. Law amending the legislative career service law.
	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic Law of the Legislature. Organic Code of the Judiciary.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution adopting the Rules of Procedure for Merit-based Competitive Examinations, Citizen Challenges, and Societal Oversight for Admission to the Judiciary. • Technical Regulations governing the Personnel Selection Subsystem.
	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment to the article in the Civil Service Law regarding the scope of employment contracts in the various branches of public administration. • Law on Access to Public Information that, inter alia, requires public access to all processes related to the selection and hiring of government personnel. • Decree Law amending the Municipal Administrative Career Service Law and mandating implementation of the Municipal Roster and the inclusion of municipal employees in that Roster.
	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congressional Decree on the Civil Service Law of the Legislative Branch. • Adoption of new Enabling Regulations for the Civil Service Law of the Legislative Branch. • Decree amending the Organic Law of the Public Prosecutors' Office.
	 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial Review Act.
	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment to the Enabling Regulations of the General Civil Service Law. • New Organic Law of the National Congress.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES	 MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the Judicial Council as the Judiciary's governing body. • Enabling Regulations of the Professional Career Service Law in the Federal Public Administration. • Decision containing provisions regarding matters relating to human resources and the professional career service.
	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law regulating the Administrative Litigation system. • Decree establishing the Enabling Regulations of the Municipal Administrative Career Law. • Regulations governing the Judicial Career Service. • Law governing careers in the Public Prosecution Service.
	 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law amending the legislative career service law and the administrative career service law. • Executive Decree repealing the possibility of equating years on the job (experience) with years of studies for the Administrative Career Service. • Decree amending the Regulations governing the Administrative Career Service. • Resolution adopting the Technical Rules of Procedure for Recruitment and Selection in public tenders/calls for candidates. • Resolution adopting the Rules of Procedure for Recruitment and Selection for Promotion and Admission to the Administrative Career Service.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law governing the judicial career service. • Law amending the legislative career service law. • Resolution adopting the Regulations governing Human Resource Management in the Legislative Career Service. • Resolution adopting the Code of Ethics for the Legislative Branch.
	 PARAGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree approving implementation of the Consolidated Government Employment Portal, which all citizens can access. • Resolution adopting and establishing the General Rules governing Selection for Admission into and Promotion within the Civil Service through Competition. • Resolution adopting the Plan for Implementing Human Resource Management Policies in the Public Prosecutors' Office. • Resolution adopting the Human Resources Management Policy of the Public Prosecutors' Office. • Resolution establishing procedures for the selection, admission, and promotion of officials in the Public Prosecutors' Office.
	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree establishing the National Civil Service Authority. • Civil Service Law.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES	 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Commission Regulations (as amended).
	 URUGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law No. 18362 on the admission into the civil service via competition with respect to the Executive Branch (Article 9), the Judiciary (Article 413), and the Administrative Litigation Tribunal (Article 425), establishing the duty to publish calls for applications for jobs in public administration (Article 11). • Law establishing the National Civil Service Office to administer and manage the Human Resources Recruitment System. • Law establishing the Civil Servant Statute for Central Government, which provides that the National Civil Service Office is also responsible for selecting Central Government personnel . • Decree regulating the Personnel Recruitment and Selection process for admission into Central Government. • Law establishing that all Public Administration vacancies must be posted on the "Uruguay Concurso" (Uruguay Competes) portal. • Decree establishing the process to be followed for drafting and publishing vacancy announcements.
PREPARATION AND PROCESSING OF DRAFT LAWS	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office of the Director-General of Human Resources is currently examining a draft regulatory amendment.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
PREPARATION AND PROCESSING OF DRAFT LAWS	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Draft Public Servant Law. • Preliminary draft law on conflict of interest and nepotism in public office.
	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill to regulate Article 37 of the Federal Constitution regulating cases and terms and conditions for filling fixed job positions with Federal Public Administration officials. • Preliminary draft amendments to the Constitution to amend Article 37 thereof in order to restrict the number of fixed positions and establish a public selection process.
	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill to amend the Organizational Law and Powers vested in the Office of the Comptroller-General of the Republic.
	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill on the establishment of the "Administrative Career System of the Legislative Branch". • Bills on implementing the Administrative Career Law in the Legislative Branch. • Draft Administration of Justice Statute.
	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Bill amending the Organic Law of the Civil Service and Administrative Career.
	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft General Regulations to the Civil Service Law. • Preliminary Draft Amendments to the Civil Service Law. • Preliminary Draft Public Office Law.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
PREPARATION AND PROCESSING OF DRAFT LAWS	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 draft bills to modernize the system of government hiring.
	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill amending the Civil Service Law and its Enabling Regulations. • Municipal Service Law. • 3 Bills to harmonize the rules governing public servants' employment status.
	 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Rules for the Judicial Service. • Draft Code of Conduct for Judicial Officers.
	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Career Service and Public Office Bill. • Progress toward establishing new regulations governing the organization and modi operandi of human resources in the Legislative Branch. • Progress toward comprehensive reform of the internal rules of procedure of the National Congress. • Progress with drafting new regulations for settling conflicts and providing remedies to challenge administrative resolutions in Congressional selection processes.
	 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process of Revising Public Service Regulations.
	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary draft Recruitment/Filling of Vacancies Rules.
PREPARATION AND PROCESSING OF DRAFT LAWS	 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft comprehensive amendment to the legislative career service law.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
PREPARATION AND PROCESSING OF DRAFT LAWS	 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill to modernize the government procurement system.
	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Employment bill.
TRAINING ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops on how to write job profiles. • Preparation of guidelines for selection processes. • Training courses on the "Concursar" (Competitive) Registration System's personnel selection process (specifically, the Electronic Pre-Registration and Document Registration modules).
	 BAHAMAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fortnightly meetings for Human Resource Managers in each Agency.
	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person and on-line training courses for the Civil Service Commissions and government officials and employees to notify and counsel them regarding issues addressed in Public Administration. • Training courses delivered by the Salvadoran Institute for Municipal Development to the Court of Accounts of the Republic on personnel selection processes. • Training courses delivered by the Salvadoran Institute for Municipal Development to the Government Ethics Tribunal of the Republic on personnel selection processes.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>TRAINING ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT</p>	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training courses delivered by the Salvadoran Institute for Municipal Development to the Office of the Procurator-General of the Republic on personnel selection processes. • Training courses taught by the Municipal Training Center. • Training courses taught by the Salvadoran Institute for Municipal Development to technical staff of the Municipality. • Specially tailored counseling by the Salvadoran Institute for Municipal Development for Municipal Councils on implementing the Municipal Administrative Career Law.
	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Program on the Legal Framework governing the Nicaraguan Civil Service for direct (i.e. non-contractor) and technical staff in Human Resource Departments, managerial staff, legal advisors, and trade union leaders (22 sessions/ events). • Planning of training courses on the Civil Service and Administrative Career Law.
	 SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training course for government officials on drafting job descriptions, provided by the Public Sector Reform Unit.
	 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training programmes for those managing the public service selection and staffing processes.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
TRAINING ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT	 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ethics, Accountability and Good Governance Programme” for senior officers, such as Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments. • “Designing Orientation Programmes”, a ‘Train the Trainer’ workshop for those in charge of developing orientation agendas in various government departments.
	 URUGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General induction course taught by the National Civil Service Office and the National School of Public Administration for persons entering public administration. • Courses taught by each ministry or government department in conjunction with the National School of Public Administration to train staff in the skills needed in their particular areas. • Training courses for recruitment and selection managers on how to use the “Uruguay Concursa” portal.
IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execution of the Implementation of the Administrative Career in El Salvador Project with the Spanish Cooperation Agency – DEMUCA Foundation.
INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectoral Collective Bargaining Agreement for Personnel in the National Government Employment System (SINEP). • Enabling Regulations for a Central Register of Government Job Offers/Employment Opportunities. • Establishment of a Nomenclature for Classification of Positions and Functions.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a Central Directory of Labor Skills. • Preparation of a Manual for Crafting Job Profiles. • Constructing a diagnostic assessment of current processes. • Evaluation of technical and professional skills in the selection process. • Development of a schedule or program for regularizing the status of persons hired on temporary contracts. • Pro-active surveying of all administrative areas of the National Chamber of Deputies. • Studies aimed at modernizing hiring procedures. • Signing of the "Technical Assistance Agreement" and "Technical Assistance Program" between the Chamber of Deputies and the University of Buenos Aires, to i) evaluate the personnel selection and hiring system; ii) check personnel admission systems; and iii) verify compliance with admission requirements. • Audit of the Senate - Final Report by Human Resources. • Report: "Some significant features of the personnel covered by the General Collective Bargaining Agreement of the National Public Administration at December 31, 2014."

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 BAHAMAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resource Policy Manual of the Government of The Bahamas. • 2 Evaluation Forms prepared, an Interview Form and a Master Score Sheet. • Implementation of a check list for personnel of the Department of Public Service for new appointments to the public service.
	 BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section of Public Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2009, which establishes a new procedure for filling vacancies. • Section of the Services Commissions Regulations (Amendment) 2009, which delegates the power to transfer Public Officers to the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of the Public Service. • Job Classification and Compensation Project of Public Officers. • Revision of the Belize Constitution (Government Open Vote Workers) Regulations.
	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic issuance of circulars by the Office of the Director-General of the Civil Service on updating the State roster of public servants.
	 CANADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly reports by the Public Service Commission on investigations carried out. • Expansion of departments, organizations and separate employers that hire on the principles of merit and non-partisanship. • Internal staffing manual for managers of the Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner, based on the principles and values of the Public Service Employment Act.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 CANADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakdown in Public Service Commission quarterly reports of investigations carried out for an external appointment process, internal appointment process, political influence, or fraud. • Adoption of the Manager's Guidelines on Staffing Procedures by the Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner. • Adoption by the Office of the Senate Ethics Officer of the Senate Administration Staffing and Recruitment Policy for its recruitment process.
	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Finance circular establishing general guidelines for other Ministers of State, Undersecretaries, Prefects, and Senior Departmental Managers regarding contract renewal procedures. • Official Civil Service Letter containing instructions for implementing the Presidential Directive on Sound Government Personnel Development Practices. • Official Ministry of Finance Letter establishing mandatory use of the Government Jobs Portal of the National Civil Service Directorate to advertise government job vacancies. • Drawing up of a Report by the Presidential Advisory Council containing recommendations on combating conflicts of interest, influence peddling, and corruption. • Holding of public competitions to fill vacancies for contractual positions. • Taking advantage of the results of public competitive processes to fill vacancies for contractual and fee-based staff positions.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All appointments to annual contract-based and permanent positions must be made on the basis of the results of competitive processes. • Resolution approving new personnel management policies for the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic. • Negotiation of the cooperation agreement between the Chamber of Deputies and the National Civil Service Directorate regarding procedures for selecting management-level personnel. • Cooperation agreement between the Senate and the Civil Service Directorate and its Senior Public Executive System regarding procedures for recruiting senior-category personnel.
	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions undertaken by the National Civil Service Commission to move ahead with aligning career systems and public entity selection processes. • Resolution establishing rosters of persons eligible to fill positions in the Executive Directorate of Judicial Administration. • Resolution establishing rosters of persons eligible to fill career employee positions in the Administrative Division of the Judicial Council based on competitive pre-qualification results. • Actions undertaken to move ahead with the development of the competitive merits-based selection process for positions in the Office of the Attorney General (FGN).

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with Call N. 001 of 2005 for applications to compete to fill 61, 225 administrative career vacancies. • Establishment of administrative regulations by the Civil Service Administrative Department to govern the administrative career in the Legislative Branch. • Assignment of the administration and supervision of specific and special civil service careers to the National Civil Service Commission. • Decision issuing a public call for applications to take part in the competitive selection of employees for the Executive Directorate of Judicial Administration. • Progress with completing the competitive merits-based selection process for positions in the Office of the Attorney General. • Creation of "Course - Contest" procedures by the Office of the Attorney General. • Establishment of the Public Career Service Roster. • Two decisions by the Office of the Attorney General for filling vacancies in Public Prosecutors' offices through merit-based competitive processes. • Determination of the legal status of previous procedures that made it difficult to accurately project a career in the Office of the Attorney General.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 <p>COLOMBIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening of the Career Service Register, by clarifying specific situations affecting those who might possess career service rights. • Reactivation of the competitive process of 2008 to fill 1,711 positions in the Office of the Attorney General. • Public tender to outsource competitive processes for applicants to positions in the judicial police. • 2019-2020 Strategic Plan of the Office of the Attorney General.
	 <p>COSTA RICA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posting on the Internet of vacancies in the Office of the Comptroller-General • Publication of the Job Description Manual on the website of the Office of the Comptroller-General • Enforcement by the Office of the Comptroller-General of the procedures established in the General Manual for Comprehensive Oversight. • Posting on the Internet (the Costa Rican Judiciary website) of Vacancies in the Public Prosecutors' Office. • Publication on the Costa Rican Judiciary website of competitive processes for the appointment of professional and non-professional personnel in the Judiciary and in Ancillary Justice System Offices. • Posting of the Job and Functions Description Manual on the Judiciary website.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posting on the Internet (Civil Service website) of vacancies in the Executive Branch. • Publication of the Specialties and Classifications Manual by the Office of the Director-General of the Civil Service. • Publication of the Jobs Classification Manual by the Office of the Director-General of the Civil Service. • Publication of Institutional Manuals by the Office of the Director-General of the Civil Service. • Publication of the Teaching Jobs Classification Manuals by the Office of the Director-General of the Civil Service. • Construction of the Institutional Management Index by the Office of the Comptroller General, as a tool for evaluating government institutions. • Publication of the Institutional Management Index findings on the web page of the Office of the Comptroller General. • Publication, on the website or the Legislative Assembly and in the Costa Rican Legal Information System of the Legislative Assembly Administrative Jobs Description and Classification Manual. • Posting on the Internet of the opening of external competitive processes for jobs in the Legislative Branch. • Posting on the Internet of the opening of internal competitive processes for jobs in the Legislative Branch.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal dissemination of competitive processes for the appointment of professional and non-professional personnel in the Judiciary and in Ancillary Justice System Offices. • General Information Guidelines on Entering the Judicial Career Service available in the Judicial Career Administrative System. • Model for Recruitment, Selection, and Appointment to Fill Vacancies in the Judiciary, applicable to all job classifications, published in the Judicial Bulletin. • Publication on the Judiciary website of the Classification Description Manual for each position currently found in the Judiciary and in Ancillary Justice System Offices. • Guidelines on procedures for recruiting and selecting personnel for the Office of the Comptroller-General. • Posting of vacancies in the Office of the Comptroller-General on the Office's website. • Publication of the Job Profiles Manual for the Office of the Comptroller-General of the Republic on the Office's website.
	 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuance of the Code of Ethical Standards. • Resolution establishing Instructions governing admission to the administrative career service via internal evaluation. • Adoption of the Operational Rules of Procedure governing Regulation of Human Resources in the Legislative Branch.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Organizational Unit of the Senate within the Human Resources Directorate.
	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review by SENRES of appointments throughout the public sector.
	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructuring of personnel recruitment and selection processes in the Judiciary. • Posting of vacancies on the Judiciary website. • "Evaluation of Attitudes and Skills of Recently Hired Personnel" by the Court of Audit of the Republic. • The Court of Audit of the Republic's "Performance Evaluation of Employees of the Court of Audit of the Republic". • The Court of Audit of the Republic's "Performance Evaluation of Audit Staff". • Establishment of the Monitoring Unit to verify compliance with dissemination of information regarding government personnel selection and hiring processes. • Circular 571 establishing certain criteria for the Civil Service Tribunal with respect to Public office and the Administrative Career and containing draft amendments to the Civil Service Law and its Regulations. • Circular 750 on the Civil Service Tribunal's commitment to implementing the Administrative Career and the steps to be taken to that end.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular No. 783 remitting to the Office of the President of the Republic the Proposed Draft Amendments to the Civil Service Law. • Implementation by the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Office of the President of a system for providing candidates with more information regarding the status of their application in the selection process and an opportunity to request explanations or ask for a review/revision. • Obligation to submit certified minutes to the Salvadoran Municipal Development Institute showing objective compliance with selection procedures. • Decentralization of the National Municipal Administrative Career Roster (RNCAM) to the Regional Centers of the Salvadoran Municipal Development Institute. • Implementation of the subcomponent of the Local Government Capacity-building Project. • Drafting of the Internal Rules of Procedure of the Salvadoran Municipal Development Institute, containing personnel recruitment, selection, and promotion procedures. • Drafting of Administrative Career Manuals by the Salvadoran Municipal Development Institute. • Delivery of published material relating to implementation of the Municipal Administrative Career Law. • Electronic publication of material relating to the Municipal Administrative Career Law.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring through on-site visits to assess implementation of the Municipal Administrative Career Law. • Adoption by the Legislative Assembly of administrative guidelines for personnel selection and hiring processes to ensure that they use competitive merit-based procedures. • Establishment by the Legislative Assembly of technical criteria for calls for job applications to ensure equal opportunities for men and women. • Model Vacancy Notice instructions for the Legislative Assembly. • Manual of Descriptive Posts of the Legislative Assembly. • Rules of Procedure of the Human Resources Department of the Legislative Assembly. • Adoption of the Legislative Assembly's salary and positions scale for promotion, internal transfers, and competitions.
	 GRENADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for appointment/promotion form that requires ministers and departments to meet a series of requirements and criteria for appointments.
	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Career Service Plan for recruitment and selection of personnel. • Implementation of the Adversarial Procedure for selecting personnel in the Ministry of the Economy based on candidates' merits and credentials.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project currently under way to establish an Administrative Career Plan. • Implementation of a Congressional General Rules and Procedures Manual. • Implementation of the Jobs Classification Manual containing specifications regarding existing positions in the Public Prosecutors' Office. • Implementation of the rule requiring publication of vacancies in a variety of oral and printed media. • Governmental Decision detailing human resource policies to be applied in public administration. • Governmental Decision of 2011 adopting the Annual Remunerations Plan and rules for applying it. • Instructions for Examining Academic and Specialized Studies Records and Legal Requirements of the ONSEC (National Civil Service Office) Department for the Selection and Evaluation of Human Resources. • Decision by the Office of the Director of ONSEC approving the Employment Management manual. • Establishment of the Administrative Career Directorate in ONSEC. • Governmental Decision authorizing the Human Resource Management I.T. System (SiARH).

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for connectivity and setting up websites in government entities. • Rules, Policies, and Procedures Manual for Guyana's Audit Office.
	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the "Honduras Open Government Action Plan". • Drafting of a comparative study of different citizen participation models in Latin American countries with respect to competitive hiring and selection processes. • Studies to identify mechanisms for setting aside resources for filling career positions in the Legislative Branch. • Posting of vacancies on the National Congress and Secretariat of Finance websites. • Publication, on the National Congress website, of all data regarding Congress's operating and investment outlays. • Actions (3) undertaken to establish hiring filters and lower the risks of corruption in the Public Prosecutors' Office.
	 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuance of circulars by the Office of the Services Commission with guidelines regarding merits-based hiring of public servants. • Drafting of a Model Accountability Agreement. • Drafting of a Model Accountability Agreements Values Framework.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption by the Office of the Services Commission of administrative procedures for communicating and publishing public service employment opportunities. • Posting of public service vacancies on the Office of the Services Commission website.
	 MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Manual for General Use in relation to Human Resources and Organizational Matters. • Professional Career Service Manual. • Updating of General Organizational Manual for the Chamber of Deputies. • Updating of Guidelines for Human Resources Administration and Oversight for the Chamber of Deputies.
	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular establishing the documents to be included in the file of any new appointee to the civil service, showing that the legally required selection procedures were followed. • Drafting of individual and shared job manuals for 49 institutions in the public administration. • Establishment of the General Directorate of Public Office. • Establishment of (11) Departmental Administrative Career Service Commissions. • Establishment of (55) Municipal Commissions. • Establishment of the National Municipal Administrative Career Service Commission.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Admission and Merits Assessment Commission to evaluate 19 candidates competing for family court judge positions.
	 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up of an ad-hoc Secretariat within the Judiciary responsible for the competitive merit-based processes for selecting the first family court judges in accordance with the judicial career service law. • Publication, on the Judiciary website, of the call for candidates and the various phases of the competition to fill family court judge vacancies. • Publication, on the website of the Office of the Director-General of the Administrative Career Service, of the Job Classification Manual of the different Public Institutions. • Increase in the budget of the Office of the Director-General of the Administrative Career Service. • Drafting of the Job Classification Manual for the Legislative Branch.
	 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Guidelines for the Selection of Candidates” Manual. • Contract Employment Guidelines produced by the Personnel Department.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 UNITED STATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and publication of the Annual Performance Report of the Office of Personnel Management.
	 URUGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of the "Contract Employment Guidelines produced by the Personnel Department". • Technical assistance provided by the National Civil Service Office to central government agencies on preparing announcements of vacancies to be filled by competition. • Assistance provided by the National Civil Service Office with coordinating meetings between the Concursa Uruguay Section and the Human Resources Development Area. • Drafting of the Recruitment and Selection Manual.
ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS OR TOOLS	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I.T System for democratic and egalitarian access to the institutional website of the Public Prosecutors' Office (MPF). • The "CONCURSAR" Registration System (electronic pre-registration). • Institutional Portal ("employee's portal") of the National Public Defenders' Office ("Mi Portal MPD"). • The I.T. System for Comprehensive Management of the Human Resources and Wages (SURH) of the Public Defenders' Office.
	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of a smart phone app to achieve wider dissemination of invitations to compete for adjudicatory job vacancies in the Judiciary.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of the "Consolidated State Roster of Public Servants" in electronic format.
ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS OR TOOLS	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Federal Public Prosecutors' Office Transparency Portal.
	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the electronic integrated personnel management system for recruiting and selecting candidates for competitive processes in the judiciary.
	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with producing the I.T. app for administering the Public Roster of Persons Registered in the Career Service (RPIC).
	 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with implementing the new Portal for the Legislative Branch.
	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with implementing the Integrated Human Resources I.T. System.
	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the SIRCAM digital platform containing full data on municipalities that have set up the Municipal Roster of the Municipal Administrative Career.
	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation, within the Human Resource Management I.T. System (SiARH), of the Employment Management Module to record the outcomes of evaluations of candidates to fill vacancies.
	 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Government of Guyana website.
	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with implementing a virtual platform posting everything to do with selection and hiring processes.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS OR TOOLS	 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Labour Market Information System operated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.
	 MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress toward publication of the 2008-2012 Professional Career Service Program. • "Comprehensive Professional Career Service Evaluation Model" System.
	 PARAGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Consolidated Government Employment Portal known as "Paraguay Competes".
	 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the "MAP Concursa" Public Competitive Processes Portal.
	 SURINAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the electronic classification and salary-scale system for state employees (FISO).
	 URUGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the "Uruguay Concursa" Internet portal.

1.2 GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree making "Simplified Procedure" use of the electronic system for direct procurement procedures mandatory. • Decree regulating the Delegated Decree constituting the "Regulations governing the "National Administration Procurement Regime". • Rules of Procedure for the procurement of goods, works, and services of the National Chamber of Deputies. • Rules of Procedure for the procurement of goods, works, and services of the National Senate. • Rules of Procedure governing procurement by the National Judicial Council. • Consolidated general terms and conditions of the National Judicial Council. • Procurement and Hiring Regulations of the National Public Prosecutors' Office. • Rules governing the Purchase, Disposal, and Procurement of Goods and Services by the Public Defenders' Office. • Consolidated general terms and conditions of the Public Defenders' Office. • General Rules of Procedure of the Ministry of the Interior, Public Works, and Housing for the rendering of accounts in respect of Budget Funds Transferred to Provinces, Municipalities and/or Other Entities.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution establishing the Commission to evaluate, coordinate, and monitor repricing procedures. • Decree establishing new Rules governing the Repricing of Public Works Contracts and Public Works Consulting Contracts of the National Public Administration. • The National Public Works Law and its Enabling Regulations.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated general terms and conditions for the National Administration's Procurement Regime. • Consolidated general terms and conditions for Minor Public Works. • Decree approving implementation of the Works and Services Leasing/subcontracting module (LOYS). • Real Estate Leasing Regulations.
	 BAHAMAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Administration and Audit Act, 2010.
	 BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial and Audit (Reform) Act 2011.
	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree on Basic Standards of the Goods and Services Administration System, which replaces SD No. 29190. • Ruling by the Office of the Procurator-General of the State providing instructions to all Legal Units in the Public Administration regarding procurement processes.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision in the Supreme Decree on the Organizational Structure of the Executive Branch concerning the Vice Minister of Budget and Fiscal Accounting and the powers vested in the Policy-Making Body responsible for setting Public Sector Management Standards. • Participation and Social Oversight Law. • Provision in the Political Constitution of the State of 2009 establishing social oversight as a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating public sector management. • Decree establishing the "Consolidated Roster of Government Suppliers". • Resolution adopting the Rules of Procedure for the "Consolidated Roster of Government Suppliers". • The regulations contained in the Model Base Document for Procurement of Works through Public Competitive Bidding.
	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Corruption Law. • Conflicts of Interest Law. • Resolution regulating and expanding the use of the Consolidated Roster of Suppliers.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment of the Law on terms and conditions for fast-track administrative and services contracts. • Law Regulating Lobbying and Applications Representing Private Interests to Authorities and Public Servants. • Transparency Law.
	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law 1150 inserting efficiency and transparency measures into Law 80 of 1990 and issuing general provisions regarding the hiring of government resources. • Decree containing enabling regulation for law 1150.
	 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Decree establishing the National Public Procurement System.
	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry into force of the Organic Law of the National Public Procurement System. • Executive Decree adopting the General Regulations for enforcement of the Organic Law of the National Public Procurement System. • Law N. 0 of 2013 requiring at least three platforms for direct procurement of small quantities of non-standardized goods and services and for procurement of works. • Resolution on records kept of the use made of the "small quantities" procedure.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 Amendment to the Public Administration Procurement Law. • Adoption in 2013 of the new Enabling Regulation for the Public Administration Procurement Law.
	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree amending the Government Procurement Law. • Amendment of the Government Procurement Law.
	 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement (Amendment) Act 2010. • Procurement (Amendment) Regulations 2004.
	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law on Efficient and Transparent Procurement using Electronic Means. • Enabling Regulations for the Law on Efficient and Transparent Procurement using Electronic Means. • Amendments to the Government Procurement Law. • Amendments to the Enabling Regulations of the Organizational Law of the Supreme Auditing Office.
	 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public sector procurement regulations.
	 MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions of the Procurement, Leasing, and Services Regulation that penalize noncompliance. • Provisions of the Chamber of Deputies' Public Works and Services Regulations that penalize noncompliance.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES	 MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions of the Senate's Manual of Regulation governing Procurement, Leasing, Provision of Services, and Public Works that contemplates penalties for noncompliance.
	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law 801 Municipal Administrative Contracting. • Regulations to the Law on Municipal Administrative Contracting. • Law 737 Public Sector Administrative Contracting Law. • Regulations to the Law on Public Sector Administrative Contracting Law.
	 PARAGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution establishing evaluation criteria and verification procedures designed to tidy up and standardize the activities of Operational Procurement Units and to detect any conflicts of interest. • Decree establishing the electronic Dutch auction procedure as a supplementary type of public procurement.
	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law establishing the regulations governing the Development and Competitiveness of Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). • Decree on public procurement of goods and services from MSMEs. • Decree establishing the Presidential Initiative to Support and Promote MSMEs. • Supreme Decree adopting the "2012-2016 National Plan to Combat Corruption".

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES	 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law establishing the regulations governing the Development and Competitiveness of Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). • Decree on public procurement of goods and services from MSMEs. • Decree establishing the Presidential Initiative to Support and Promote MSMEs.
	 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act (partially in effect). • Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Amendment) Act (partially in effect).
	 URUGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 81 of Law 18362 establishing the State Procurement Agency (TOCAF). • Updating of Article 33 of the TOCAF regarding exceptions to the public tender requirement. • Decree regulating Article 36 of the TOCAF regarding Framework Agreements between individuals or legal persons and the State. • Law on creating greater flexibility in procurement procedures. • Decree regulating the new electronic system for the procurement of goods and services. • Article in Law 18834 amending the threshold for installing a tenders evaluation committee, depending on the consumer price index.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>PREPARATION AND PROCESSING OF DRAFT LAWS</p>	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary draft Law on Transparency and Best Practices for Executing National Government Works Contracts.
	 BAHAMAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Regulations for the Public Procurement Bill of 2018 • Public Procurement Bill of 2018.
	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Draft Government Procurement Law.
	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill establishing the Liability of Legal Persons for Acts against National or International Public Administration. • Bill stipulating rules for public administration tenders and contracts. • Proposed constitutional amendment contemplating the establishment of the National Council of Courts of Accounts. • Bill to amend the Bidding and Contracts Law.
	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary draft amendment to government procurement system regulations.
	 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Transparency in Administrative Procurement" Bill, amending the Administrative Procurement Law".
	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft bill to amend the Public Administration Procurement Law.
	 GRENADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Procurement Act. • Electronic Transactions Bill.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
PREPARATION AND PROCESSING OF DRAFT LAWS	 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Regulations on Suspension and Debarment from Participation in Public Procurement.
	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with reviewing direct procurement regulations. • Progress with reviewing the circular regulating openness of the invitation to take part in private tenders and private competitive processes.
	 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promulgation of the Public Procurement Act (not yet in effect). • Drafting of Regulations for the Public Procurement Act.
	 MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill to update the Chamber of Deputies' Regulations governing Procurement, Leasing, and Services. • Bill to update the Chamber of Deputies' Regulations governing Public Works and Services.
	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Draft Public Sector Administrative Procurement Law.
	 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Amendment of the Government Procurement Law.
	 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill to strengthen the role of civil society in the government procurement system. • Preliminary draft amendment of the Procurement Law.
	 ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Procurement Act (not yet in force).

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
	 SURINAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Draft of a new Public Contracting Law.
<p>IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING ACTIONS</p>	 BAHAMAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for relevant stakeholders and government officials on the e-Procurement and Supplier Registry System. • Public awareness campaign on the e-Procurement and Supplier Registry System.
	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased funding for the Office of the Comptroller-General of the Union. • Increased funding for the Official Audit Office of the Union. • Training programs for government officials responsible for tenders and contracts organized by the Federal Government. • Distance training courses for auctioneers organized by the Ministry of Budget and Management. • Briefing and tuition program on electronic tenders. • Program to strengthen public sector management organized by the Office of the Comptroller-General of the Union (7,231 public servants received training) and focusing mainly on tenders and procurement of works, goods, and services. • Distance education courses organized by the Office of the Comptroller-General of the Union, focusing on tenders and contracts (1,917 public servants received training).

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING ACTIONS	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership between the Government and the Advanced School of Financial Administration to provide training courses for public servants on tenders and procurement of works, goods, and services. • Partnership between the Government and the Advanced School of Financial Administration to provide training courses for public servants on tenders and procurement of works, goods, and services. • 1,670 public administration officials took courses (13, in 2016) in connection with the National Training Program and the Ministry of Justice's Training Program to Combat Corruption and Money Laundering. • Training on fraud in public tenders annual training course for officials in Public Administration). • Training and vocational activities for civil servants working in or with the Official AuditOffice of the Union.
	 CANADÁ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free seminars for businesses on the procurement process and on how to sell services and goods to the Government, offered by the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises. • Business seminars/webinars and other measures provided by the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises for vendors/suppliers on how to navigate the federal procurement process.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING ACTIONS	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops and Courses for purchasers and providers available online on the Government Procurement Directorate Platform. • Audiovisual self-teaching materials for public sector auditors and lawyers posted on the Public Procurement Directorate platform. • Seminars relating to honesty, transparency, and modernization of the State taught online at the Public Procurement Directorate platform.
	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (43) Training activities conducted by the Royalties Directorate for public servants in a number of local authorities and for community leaders fulfilling social oversight functions. • Day-long training sessions run by the Comptroller's Office on government procurement tools and topics. • Training sessions and visits to subnational entities by the Office of the Comptroller, the National Department of Planning, and the Office of the Procurator-General (PGN) to underscore the obligation and importance of publishing procurement information in the Electronic Government Procurement System (SECOP).
	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training courses taught by the Procurement Regulations Unit for public servants working in the Court of Accounts of the Republic.
	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training courses for public servants, suppliers, and small and medium-sized enterprises, taught by the Procurement and Hiring Training Center. • Diploma Course (2) in Procurement and Hiring.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING ACTIONS	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops organized by the Office of the Comptroller-General on "Social Oversight and Supervision of Public Works".
	 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for senior management on the operation framework for internal control for procurement. • Training for internal auditors in relation to best practices in procurement compliance monitoring. • Training for public servants whose functions involve procurement procedures. • Training on public procurement for public servants provided by the Ministry of Finance in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES	 BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARICOM Model Public Procurement Bill.
	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "COL 99/030 Project" Agreement entered into by the Republic of Colombia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
	 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDB's Technical Cooperation Agreement for Public Procurement Modernization.
	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of the diagnostic assessment with IDB support of procurement subsystems in Honduras.
	 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint work with the World Bank on standardizing public sector procurement documents. • Joint work with the Inter-American Development Bank on evaluating the public sector procurement system and drafting a final report.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES</p>	 SURINAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) intended to improve the procurement system.
<p>IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic assessment for drafting a "Map of Transparency and Accessibility Conditions for Government Procurement". • Establishment of indicators by National Public Administration agencies to achieve more robust government (goods and services) procurement system. • Signing of a Framework Agreement between the Judicial Council and the National General Audit Office. • Establishment of an auditor corps with the National Judicial Council with autonomy vis-a-vis General Government. • Administrative modernization project, focusing on results, quality of services, community participation and oversight of State programs and government institutions. • Cooperation agreement between the Anti-Corruption Office and the National Road Infrastructure Directorate of the Ministry of Transport to establish an Ethics and Transparency Unit. • Procedures Manual for the National Administration Procurement Regime.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION- BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures Manual for the Purchase, Disposal, and Procurement of Goods and Services by the Public Defenders' Office. • Modernization of the Rules of Procedure for Administrative Leasing of Public Prosecutors' Office buildings/real estate.
	 BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of the country's procurement system within the framework of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). • Draft Public Procurement Procedures Handbook. • Framework Regional Integration Policy on Public Procurement. • Working Document for the Forty-Fourth Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development. • Draft Standard Operating Procedure for Procurement.
	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructuring of the Office of the Director-General of Public Sector Management Standards
	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of the government procurement system assigned to the Office of the Director-General of Fiscal Information Management Systems. • Electronic tenders operating manual. • 2016-2018 Strategic Map of the Office of the Comptroller-General of the Union.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlarged workplace infrastructure for the Official Audit Office of the Union. • 2015-2021 Strategic Plan of the Official Audit Office of the Union. • Regulations issued by the Ministry of Planning establishing new basic procedures for ascertaining prices in connection with procurement of goods and services. • Expanded use of electronic auctions for procurement of goods and services.
	 CANADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New guide for doing business entitled: "Doing Business with the Government of Canada". • Initiative to Revise the Code of Conduct for Procurement. • Strengthening of the Office of the Procurement Ombudsperson by increasing the number of trained staff in that office. • Internal restructuring of the Office of the Procurement Ombudsperson to facilitate ongoing monitoring and evaluation of its activities and functions.
	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing up of a Report by the Presidential Advisory Council containing recommendations on combating conflicts of interest, influence peddling, and corruption.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity Agenda Program - Online Governance Strategy of the Ministry of Communications. • Guidelines and Manuals for efficient use of the Electronic Government Procurement System (SECOP).
	 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports drawn up by the Integrated Contracting Activity System (SIAC), identifying the various types of exceptions to administrative procurement. • Drafting of the Procurement Management Index. • Drafting of the Municipal Management Index for evaluating local government management. • Drafting of the Institutional Management Index by the Office of the Comptroller-General. • Administrative agreement between the Ministry of Finance and Radiografía Costarricense S.A. • "Evaluation of Costa Rica's 2015 Procurement System": a study produced by the Office of the Director-General for Administering Goods and Services. • Drafting of the Report by the Office of the Comptroller-General on the Special Audit of the Transition to the 2014 Consolidated Electronic Procurement System.
	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the National Public Procurement Institute.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution by the National Public Procurement Service containing the models and formats for pre-contractual documentation of the various different types of public procurement and associated procedures. • Resolution by the National Public Procurement Service regulating the application of evaluation parameters for rating bids made subject to the specific conditions applicable to different public procurement types and procedures. • Resolution by the National Public Procurement Service containing the update version of the pre-contractual and contractual document models and formats for executing works and procurement of goods and/or services. • Resolution by the National Public Procurement Service establishing the parameters used to assign a bid rating score. • Resolution by the National Public Procurement Service containing the model pre-contractual documents for the procurement of works, goods, and/or services financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with implementing proposed amendments to the Public Administration Procurement Law. • Progress made with drafting the "Evaluation of the Public Administration Procurement System" with a view to formulating a plan for making the system more effective.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION- BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	<p> EL SALVADOR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructuring of the Public Administration Procurement and Contracting Regulatory Unit. • Inter-agency agreement between the Court of Accounts of the Republic and the Ministry of Finance with a view to coordinating actions for making public sector management more efficient and transparent. • Implementation of the transactional module for Annual Procurement Programming to facilitate budget planning and management. • Progress with implementing a Public Procurement Observatory. • Publication of information regarding public works under way or executed in the past three years. • Establishment of an area within the Procurement and Contracting Regulatory Unit to be in charge of conducting studies and evaluations of procurement procedures with a view to adopting measures to make that process more effective. • Establishment of databases, open to the public, of bidders and contractors awarded State contracts and of those penalized for noncompliance. • Progress with making government procurement more transparent and open by requiring entities bound by the Access to Public Information Law (LSIP) to post detailed information regarding public works being executed on their websites.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement directive of the Superintendency of Banks. • Resolution of the Government Procurement Regulations Directorate in response to issues raised by unsatisfied GUATECOMPRAS users. • Production by the Government Procurement Regulations Directorate of a bulletin keeping track of issues/complaints raised with regard to the GUATECOMPRAS system. • Production by the Government Procurement Regulations Directorate of a report on issues/complaints raised with regard to the GUATECOMPRAS system that have not yet been resolved.
	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of the results of selection processes in the Honducompras dissemination module. • Posting of the results of selection processes on the transparency portals of government institutions. • Implementation of a system for monitoring and evaluating government procurement processes. • Drafting of a policy document to be used by the Honducompras system. • New regulations of the Government Procurement Regulatory Office (ONCEA). • Administrative restructuring of ONCEA.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of the "Guiding Framework for Internal Audit Units," which establishes the procedures to be used to appoint an internal auditor in each institution. the General Standards for Internal Government Audits, and the "Guiding Framework for Internal Auditing of Public Funds". • Drafting of organizational and functional guidelines for Internal Audit Units. • Evaluation of the 50 Internal Audit Units by the National office for Comprehensive Development of Internal Controls. • Reports by Internal Audit Units ensuring internal auditing of the institution they are part of. • Establishment of the Unit for Monitoring and Evaluating processes within Honducompras within the framework of the Presidential Office for transparency and modernization of the State. • Progress with analyzing the procurement systems of 12 public sector institutions.
	 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with reviewing the Government of Jamaica Procurement Guidelines. • Posting of public sector tenders on the website of the Office of the Contractor General. • Publication of the Quarterly Contracts Report on the website of the Office of the Contractor General.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of the list of contracts endorsed by the National Contracts Commission on the website of the Office of the Contractor General. • Handbook of Public Sector Procurement Procedures 2014, which includes, deadlines and timelines of a procurement process • Circular on the "Implementation of the Government of Jamaica's Electronic Government Procurement (eGP) System". • Adoption of the Electronic Government Procurement Practitioner's Manual. • Posting of information on unsuccessful bids on the Ministry of Finance website. • Website of the Office of the Contractor General which allows citizens to monitor government contracts and lodge complaints.
	 MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing of the general cooperation agreement between "Transparencia Mexicana" and the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation to boost transparency in the management of the Court's budget. • Decision establishing provisions regarding the use of the Government's Electronic Public Information System (CompraNet).
	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Regulatory Unit for the Municipal Procurement System.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION- BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative regulations promoting use of the State Administrative Procurement System for publishing the municipalities' procurement processes. • Increase in the number of technical personnel in the General Directorate of Government Procurement. • Ongoing monitoring and tracking of procurement units and processes. • Contract management guidelines. • Establishment of the Municipal Development Committee and Town Hall Meetings to facilitate citizen oversight and accountability. • Establishment of the Commission to Monitor Tenders. • Establishment of the Interagency Commission for Updating the National Public Procurement System. • Evaluation of the National Procurement and Hiring System. • Drafting of model bidding terms and conditions/contract specifications. • Drafting of Guidelines regarding contractual clauses for the public sector, individual municipalities, and the municipal sector.
	 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution assigning to the General Directorate of Government Procurement the task of standardizing bidding terms and conditions for each type of government procurement.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of the document entitled "Evaluation of the Government Procurement System in Panama" (which would appear to be a self-assessment of the country's public procurement system).
	 PARAGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the directive for verifying the requirements for tenders authorized by way of exception. • Drafting of the 2014/2016 Paraguay Open Government Action Plan. • Drafting of the Annual Work Plan of the Internal Audit Directorate of the National Public Procurement Directorate (DNCP). • Drafting of the 2013 Evaluation of Paraguay's Public Procurement System (a process that resumed in 2007), which contains recommendations and plans for strengthening the system.
	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a new area called "Directorate of Supervision and Auditing" within the Government Procurement Oversight Body to reinforce audit practices. • Directive issued by the Office of the Comptroller-General regarding the keeping of records and citizen participation in overseeing public works. • Evaluation of Peru's Government Procurement System using OECD measurement tools. • Quarterly Executive Reports on Government Procurement System performance.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational restructuring of the Government Procurement Oversight Body. • Annual Procurement Plan containing provisions on standardizing criteria for the Annual Procurement Plans of Public Sector Entities. • Directive issued by the Government Procurement Oversight Body regarding "Provisions applicable to Record Keeping in the Electronic Government Procurement System". • Guidelines issued by the Office of the Comptroller-General for verification by the Institutional Oversight Body of the information kept in the INFOBRAS System.
	 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuance of the Regulations governing Procurement of Goods, Services, and Works. • Issuance of the regulations governing State procurement of goods and services of MSMEs.
	 ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of 3 methods for imposing sanctions on suppliers who do not comply with the law. • Publication of tenders and bids on the Government website and in newspapers and gazettes.
	 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the Procurement and Disposal Handbook. • Central Tenders Board Information Booklet, which sets out the process for evaluating offers, including some of the basic evaluation criteria.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 UNITED STATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuance of the 2010-2014 Acquisition Workforce Development Strategic Plan for Civilian Agencies by the Office of Management and Budget with a view to upgrading the workforce and the skills of contracting personnel.
	 URUGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Procurement Handbook written by the State Procurement Agency for planning projects prior to the procurement process.
ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS OR TOOLS	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computerized management system for the Public Works Secretariat. • Technology and Digital Governance Plan. • New electronic procurement system for the National Administration. • Integrated and consolidated Local Financial Information System (SLU). • Personnel Management System (SARHA). • National Chamber of Deputies website. • Website of the National Public Defenders' Office. • The Judiciary website.
	 BAHAMAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-Procurement and Suppliers Registry website. • e-Procurement and Suppliers Registry System.
	 BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress made in relation to the development of the Government Procurement Portal for the Public Sector on the website of the Ministry of Finance.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS OR TOOLS	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernization of the support system for the Government Procurement System. • Development of the Public Sector Management System. • Electronic forms at every level of government replace all printed forms and enable information to be stored on line.
	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the new Federal Government Procurement Portal. • Incorporation of the Procurement Panel and the Prices Panel in the new Procurement Portal as part of the new integrated system for General Services Management/Comprasnet. • Progress with implementing the Digital Citizenship Platform.
	 CANADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations conducted with a view to improving the e-tendering system.
	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chile Transparency Portal.
	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating of the Electronic Government Procurement System. • Updating of the Government Procurement System. • Implementation of SECOP II: a transactional program that lets State entities conduct all procurement and contract management operations on line and lets citizens see the documents involved.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS OR TOOLS</p>	 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Open Data app that civil society is free to use to monitor government procurement. • "Know how Your Money is Spent" citizen consultation tool". • "Purchases made with public funds" consultation tool. • Implementation of the Plans and Budgets Information System. • A mobile application was developed to encourage the reporting of complaints by citizens and access to public information. • Progress with the "electronic file" project for processing matters addressed by the Office of the Comptroller General. • Development of the "Citizen Service and Consultation" section on the website of the Office of the Comptroller General. • Implementation of the Integrated Government Procurement System replacing the CompraRed and Mer-Link platforms.
	 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the electronic portal of the General Directorate of Government Procurement. • Implementation of 40 controls in the Transaction Portal that prevent processes from going forward if all disclosure requirements are not met.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS OR TOOLS	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Consolidated Electronic Roster of Suppliers. • Implementation of the Procurement Portal.
	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the newly designed Public Administration Procurement System -SIAC-COMPRASAL II. • Progress with modernizing COMPRASAL II. • Revamping of the COMPRASAL II portal, to include the "dissemination" module.
	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption by local governments and entities subject to the Government Procurement Law of the GUATECOMPRAS system for publishing all procedures regulated by that law.
	 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New website of the National Procurement and Tender Administration.
	 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Government of Jamaica's Electronic Government Procurement System.
	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Administrative Procurement System by 75 government entities and 38 municipalities. • Progress with incorporating the Administrative Procurement System in the Integrated Financial Information System. • Progress with implementing a new function in the Administrative Procurement System that will make it possible to pre-qualify suppliers and generate dynamic statistics.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS OR TOOLS</p>	 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with implementing the third portal in the Panama Compra system. • Progress with implementing Version 3 of the Electronic Public Procurement System.
	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of the coverage of the Electronic Government Procurement System (SEACE). • Development of Version 2 of the Electronic Government Procurement System which allows anyone to monitor execution of government entities' Annual Plans.
	 UNITED STATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements made to the Federal Procurement Data System.
	 URUGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching of the “Electronic Opening” system for procurement of goods and services.

2. SYSTEMS FOR PROTECTING PUBLIC SERVANTS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO, IN GOOD FAITH, REPORT ACTS OF CORRUPTION (ARTICLE III (8) OF THE CONVENTION)

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	 BAHAMAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Evidence (Witness Anonymity) Act. • Justice Protection Act.
	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law against Corruption, Illicit Enrichment, and Investigation of Fortunes. • Whistleblowers and Witnesses Protection Law. • Ministerial Resolution adopting the Enabling Regulations of the Whistleblowers and Witnesses Protection Law.
	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Information Law, which also contains provisions on mechanisms to support public servants who in good faith report acts of corruption. • Article in Law 13460 establishing that any denunciation made by users of public services of the public administration must be received by the authorities and the whistleblower's personal information must be protected. • Anti-corruption Law of 2013, establishing that when applying sanctions for the private sector account shall be taken, inter alia, of the existence of internal integrity mechanisms. • Decree regulating the Anti-Corruption Law of 2013.
	 CANADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Canadian Forces have been amended to include internal disclosure and reprisal protection procedures for members of the Forces.
	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law on the protection of public servants reporting irregularities and breaches of integrity, and amending the Administrative Statutes Law.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations aimed at consolidating protection and assistance for witnesses, victims, and others intervening in disciplinary proceedings who need them • Resolution by the Public Prosecutor's Office upholding protection criteria in line with international standards and the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court for all those intervening in regular criminal proceedings and Justice and Peace victims and witnesses • Provision of the Consolidated Disciplinary Code characterizing as a major offence any arbitrary or unjustified act against another public servant who has reported corrupt acts. • Extension for a further 4 years of Law 1738 of 2015 on protection of witnesses, victims, and persons intervening in the disciplinary process. • Resolutions (2) establish the Program to Protect Witnesses, Victims and Persons Intervening in Criminal Proceedings, as well as public servants in the office of the Attorney General (FGN).
	 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law on the Protection of Victims, Witnesses, and Others Involved in Criminal Proceedings.
	 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidential Decree establishing the Citizen Assistance System as the principal means of communication for the receipt and channeling of complaints by members of the public to the public administration.
	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry into force of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Law of the Citizen Participation Council. • Resolution by the Citizen Participation and Social Oversight Council adopting the new Regulations governing the Handling of Petitions and Reports of Acts or Omissions that Impair Participation or Encourage Corruption. • Decision establishing the new Rules of Procedure for Receiving and Processing Reports/ Complaints for Administrative Investigation by the Office of the Comptroller General.
	 GRENADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity in Public Life Act. • Protection of Witnesses Act.
	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Regulating Extradition Procedure. • Decree Amending the Law against Organized Crime, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Criminal Code, and the Law Regulation Extradition Procedure 92. • Criminal Jurisdiction Law in High-Risk Proceedings.
	 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act. • Evidence Act.
	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law to Protect Witnesses in Criminal Proceedings.
	 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected Disclosures Act. • Justice Protection Act.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	 MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree amending the provisions in the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States that refer to protection of victims, witnesses, minors, and whistleblowers. • Decree amending, adding, and repealing provisions in the Federal Code of Criminal Procedure and the Organic Law of the Office of the Procurator-General of the Republic regarding protection for victims, witness, and experts. • Decree amending, adding, and repealing a number of provisions in the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States that refer to corruption (#3). • Law to Protect Human Rights Defenders and Journalists. • National Code of Criminal Procedure. • Federal Law for the Protection of Persons Intervening in Criminal Proceedings.
	 PARAGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law establishing the Program to Assist and Protect Witnesses and Victims in Criminal Proceedings.
	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law for the Protection of Whistleblowers in Public Administration and Effective (Plea Bargain) Cooperation in Criminal Proceedings. • Enabling Regulations of the Law for the Protection of Whistleblowers in Public Administration and Effective (Plea Bargain) Cooperation in Criminal Proceedings.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution by the Office of the Comptroller General adopting the new "Unit for Attending to Whistleblowers". • Provisions of the New Code of Criminal Procedure regarding protection measures applicable to witnesses, experts, appellants, or plea bargain collaborators participating in criminal proceedings. • Resolution by the Attorney-General's Office adopting the "Regulations governing the Victims and Witnesses Assistance Program". • Decree adopting the "Regulations for the Comprehensive Program for the Protection of Witnesses, Experts, Victims or Collaborators Intervening in Criminal Proceedings".
	 ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witness (Special Measures for) Protection Act.
	 SURINAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Corruption Law.
	 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice Protection Act. • Integrity in Public Life (Amendment) Act. • Miscellaneous Provisions (Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Proceeds of Crime, Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago, Customs and Exchange Control) Act. • Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Requests for Mutual Assistance) Regulations.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES</p>	 URUGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article of Law 18494 on protection of at-risk witnesses acting as experts or collaborators in criminal proceedings. • Article of Law 18494 on the State's prerogative to enter into agreements with other States to relocate victims, witnesses, or collaborators. • New Code of Criminal Procedure.
	<p>PREPARATION AND PROCESSING OF DRAFT LAWS</p>	 ARGENTINA
 BAHAMAS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity Commission Bill of 2017.
 BELIZE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Draft Whistleblower Protection Act.
 BRAZIL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary draft law on Protection of Whistleblowers reporting Acts of Corruption. • Bill establishing the Incentives Program for Garnering Information of Public Interest.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill establishing the Federal Anti-Corruption and Rewards Program. • Bill establishing measures for combating corruption and impunity.
 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary draft law to amend the Protection and Assistance System of the Office of the Attorney General. 	

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
PREPARATION AND PROCESSING OF DRAFT LAWS	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill envisaging various protection measures for all those who in good faith and on reasonable grounds report any act of corruption, and measures to facilitate the reporting of such acts. • Preliminary draft law to promote and facilitate the reporting of acts of corruption.
	 COSTA RICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill to partially amend the Law against Corruption and Illicit Enrichment.
	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Protocol for the Protection of Whistleblowers reporting alleged Acts of Corruption.
	 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witness Protection Bill. • Protected Disclosures Bill.
	 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected Disclosure Bill.
	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized Crime Bill.
	 PARAGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill to amend the law establishing the Program to Assist and Protect Witnesses and Victims in Criminal Proceedings in order to bring it into line with international standards.
	 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whistleblower Protection Bill.
	 URUGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill to decentralize bodies involved in whistleblower protection.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING ACTIONS	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Seminar on Whistleblower Protection and Incentive Programs held in Florianópolis.
	 CANADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational sessions by the Department of National Defence on the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act and its implementation.
	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for personnel lending assistance and protection to protected persons.
IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial Resolution adopting the Internal Rules of Procedure of the Ministry of Citizen Security for processing petitions for protection of whistleblowers and witnesses.
	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training course for personnel working in the Victims and Witnesses Protection Program, taught by the Executive Technical Unit in coordination with the United States Federal Bureau of Investigating (FBI), the United States Marshalls Service, and the United States Department of Justice. • Sharing of experience with members of other protection programs in Serbia. • Sharing of experience with members of other protection programs in Chile. • Sharing of experience with members of other protection programs in Colombia. • Sharing of experience with members of other protection programs in Brazil. • Sharing of experience with members of other protection programs in France.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES</p>	<p> EL SALVADOR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of experience with members of other protection programs in Japan. • Working meetings with delegates from Guatemala and Honduras within the framework of the Central American Agreement for the Protection of Victims, Witnesses, Experts, and Others involved in investigations and criminal proceedings relating to drug trafficking and organized crime. • Technical meetings (2) to draft a "Manual for Assisting Victims of Crimes in Central America" and a "Protocol for implementing the Central American Agreement for the Protection of Victims, Witnesses, Experts, and Others involved in investigations and criminal proceedings relating to drug trafficking and organized crime. • Diagnostic assessment reports (3) on the regulations, policies, programs, government institutions, and civil society organizations responsible for protecting victims and witnesses in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. • Analytical and descriptive report on the regulations, policies, programs, government institutions, and civil society organizations responsible for protecting victims and witnesses in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. • Exchanges (2) with Honduras and Guatemala to elicit information regarding best practices in El Salvador's Victims and Witness Protection Program. • Activities undertaken with Honduras to share technical and practical knowledge of how the El Salvador Program works.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of a Document/Form, with Guatemala, listing common criteria for determining who should receive protection and what documents should be attached to a request for protection of an individual.
	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signing of the Central American Agreement for Protection of Witnesses.
	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signing of bilateral agreements with regional organizations for the protection of human rights. Cooperation with other governments to improve systems for monitoring and combating corruption. Cooperation with other governments to provide adequate protection for whistleblowers.
	 PARAGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation with the Office of the Attorney-General of Colombia and the Office of the Attorney-General of Costa Rica.
INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision of the Justice Protection Act in 2011 (Act still not in force).
	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Strategy to Combat Corruption and Money-Laundering, Action 4 of which involved developing a proposal for enhancing the Brazilian whistleblower protection system. Guidelines for using the inter-American human rights system to protect whistleblowers reporting acts of corruption Guidelines on "Integrity Programs" drafted by the Officer of the Comptroller-General (CGU) and directed at the private sector.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p style="text-align: center; color: #C8513E; font-weight: bold;">INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 CANADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the position of “Ethics Officer” to assist the Director General Audit, Evaluation and Ethics of the Communications Security Establishment. • Inclusion of internal disclosure procedures and protection against reprisals in the Queen’s Regulations and Orders for the Canadian Forces. • Updating and clarification of existing mechanisms and processes of the Values and Ethics Code for employees in the Communications Security Establishment. • Establishment of the Internal Disclosure Office in the Department of National Defence. • Establishment of internal procedures for the disclosure of wrongdoing, including the protection of persons who disclose the wrongdoings by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.
	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model for attending to victims and witnesses to provide them with guidance, protection, and support.
	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary commitments by the Public Prosecutor’s Office to establish a National Protection System coordinated and headed by the Office of the Vice President or the Republic.
	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution by the National Secretariat for Public Administration, which contains new instructions on receiving, analyzing, and investigating complaints submitted to the Technical Secretariat for Transparency and Management.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
<p>INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES</p>	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Institutional Steering Committee responsible for coordinating activities related to victim and witness protection.
	 GRENADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption by the Integrity Commission of internal protocols to protect the confidentiality and security of information.
	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of the Center for Managing Whistleblowing by the Public. • Setting up of a hotline for reporting acts of corruption in the use of public funds. • Establishment of 21 Departmental Delegation Offices to receive reports of acts of corruption in the use of public funds. • Manual on the Organizational Structure and Functions of the Protection Office. • Rules and Procedures Manual of the Public Prosecutors' Office. • Provision of personal security, without Ministry of the Interior involvement, for victims, witnesses, or plea bargain collaborators in corruption proceedings. • Initiative by the Judiciary to combat workplace harassment.
	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of offices to attend to whistleblowers, both face-to-face and via the Internet. • Setting up of a whistleblowers hotline. • Establishment of a Security Secretariat Police Unit for Whistleblower Protection.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural Guidelines to the Protected Disclosures Act.
	 MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008-2012 National Accountability, Transparency, and Anti-Corruption Program.
	 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Unit to Protect Victims, Witnesses, and Experts in criminal proceedings. • Establishment of a Protocol to govern actions taken by the Unit to Protect Victims, Witnesses, and Experts in criminal proceedings.
	 PARAGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directives establishing intervention criteria for prosecutors with respect to regular witness protection. • Establishment of the Witness Protection Directorate within the Public Prosecutors' Office.
	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Anti-Corruption Plan.
	 ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witness protection system that can be activated at the request of the Director of Public Prosecutions.
	 URUGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular of the Supreme Court of Justice on not including data and photographs of victims that might appear in criminal proceedings.
ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS AND TOOLS	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the whistleblower mechanism (with identity protection) within the Chile Compra Directorate. • Implementation of the whistleblower mechanism (with identity protection option) in the portal of the Office of the Comptroller-General.
	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the "I denounce" smart phone app for whistleblowers.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS AND TOOLS	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a new system for receiving whistleblowers' reports via the Public Prosecutors' Office website.
	 PARAGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with developing new software for identifying at-risk whistleblowers.
	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the "Aló Contraloría Empresarial" (Business Comptroller Unit), a section offering personalized and confidential attention to those wishing to report allegedly illegal or arbitrary acts in the public sector.

3. ACTS OF CORRUPTION (ARTICLE VI OF THE CONVENTION)

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree establishing the "Commission for drafting the bill to amend, update, and complete the National Criminal Code". • Establishment of the Judicial Police to investigate acts of corruption.
	 BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization of the provisions of the Corruption Prevention Act with Belize's substantive legislation.
	 BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law against Corruption, Illicit Enrichment, and Investigation of Fortunes.
	 BRAZIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized Crime Law.
	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment to the Criminal Code to expedite the processing and trying of corruption offenses. • Amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure to expedite the processing and trying of corruption offenses. • Entry into force of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code.
	 GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment of the article referring to the offering of bribes in the Criminal Code. • Amendment of the definition of "public servant" included in the General Provisions of the Criminal Code.
	 GUYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Money Laundering and Countering of the Financing of Terrorism Act.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND/OR LEGAL MEASURES	 MÉXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decree amending and adding various Federal Criminal Code provisions relating to the combating of corruption.
	 NICARAGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law No. 641 (Criminal Code) on punishment of third-party beneficiaries of acts of corruption.
	 PERÚ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law amending Article 425 of the Criminal Code in order to expand the number of those defined as "government officials or public servants".
	 SAN VICENTE Y LAS GRANADINAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proceeds of Crime Act.
	 SURINAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform of the Penal Code.
PREPARATION AND PROCESSING OF DRAFT LAWS	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary draft law for the Amendment and Comprehensive Updating of the National Criminal Code. Criminal justice reform bill, known as Justice 20 20, to include treatment of any provisions that might be needed to make the transition from an inquisitorial to an adversarial criminal system inquisitivo al sistema penal acusatorio.
	 BAHAMAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrity Commission Bill of 2017.
	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal Code reform bill.
	 ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Money Laundering Suppression Bill. Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure. Extinction of Ownership bill.
	 HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal Code reform bill.
	 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal Code reform bill.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING ACTIONS	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance Training in Public Ethics System (SICEP).
IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES	 PANAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint work by the Government of Panama, the British Embassy, the United Nations, and Panamanian civil society on the draft amendments to the Criminal Code.
IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 ARGENTINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of a Report for the Anti-Corruption Office: "Draft Comprehensive Reform of the National Criminal Code," which, inter alia, proposes amending the characterization of "cohecho activo" (offering of bribes) and "cohecho agravado" (aggravated bribery).
	 CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drawing up of a Report by the Presidential Advisory Council containing recommendations on combating conflicts of interest, influence peddling, and corruption.
	 COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal memorandum issued by the National Public Prosecutors Directorate urging Unit Coordinators to monitor procedural deadlines for investigations ordered.
	 EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings between the Coordinators and Heads of Unit to analyze the need to set up juridical technical committees with public prosecutors and investigators to make investigations more effective. Roundtable comprised of government experts to evaluate the possibility of revising the article in the Criminal Code on the public servant concept and the notion of "public authorities" and to assess the possibility of developing related indicators.

ACTIONS	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Resolution of the Judicial Branch, for the publication on its website of all judgments and rulings that put an end to proceedings or alter a legal status.
ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS OR TOOLS	 PARAGUAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of the statistical database on judgments handed down by the Judiciary, posted on the Judicial Council website.
	 PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the "Judicial Files Consultation" module. • Implementation of the "Systematized National Jurisprudence Service".

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