

MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION
Twenty-third Meeting of the Committee of Experts
March 18-21, 2014
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L
SG/MESICIC/doc.413/14
21 March 2014
Original: Spanish

MINUTES
OF THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE
MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

I. BACKGROUND

In accordance with the schedule for the Fourth Round of Review agreed on by the Committee of Experts of the Mechanism for Follow-up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), the Twenty-third Meeting of that Committee was held at OAS headquarters in the city of Washington, D.C., on March 18 to 21, 2014. The meeting could neither be inaugurated or take place on Monday, March 17, as planned in the schedule, because of the exceptional circumstances caused by the snow and prevailing weather conditions on the day, which necessitated the closure of OAS Headquarters.

The meeting was attended by the following participants, representing the states parties: Annette Mark (Antigua and Barbuda); Néstor Baragli (Argentina); Ardelle Lisette Sabido (Belize); Chet Donovan Neymour, Mikhail Giovanni Bullard (Bahamas), Alexandra Miranda, Olmer Torrejón (Bolivia), Camila Colares, Elizabeth Marques, Flavio Dontal (Brazil); Mathilda Haykal, Markus Davies (Canada); Alberto Rodríguez (Chile); Andrés González, Sandra Morelli Rico, Ligia Helena Borrero, Mario Montes Giraldo, Juan Carlos Novoa, Carlos Augusto Mesa, Carlos Rodríguez Bocanegra, Yadir Salazar, Mónica P. Rueda (Colombia); Tatiana Gutiérrez (Costa Rica); Julio Simón Castaños, Arianna Labrada, Ramon Revi, (Dominican Republic); Mario Hidalgo, Fernando Cedeño, Carlos Pólit, Galo Chiriboga, Luis Pachala, María Rosa Merchán, Karina Peralta, Wilson Vallejo, Alejandro Fuentes, Santiago Velasco, Nelson Dueñas, Marisol Nieto, Andrés Sierra (Ecuador); Álvaro Magaña, Miguel Girón (El Salvador); José María Argueta, Verónica Taracena, Luis Fernando Carranza, Olga María Pérez, Ana Verónica Juárez (Guatemala); Gail Teixeira (Guyana); Joseph Jean Figaro, Yvlore Pigeot (Haiti); Jorge Bográn, Rigoberto Córdova (Honduras); O'Neil Francis (Jamaica); María Teresa Gómez del Campo, Dolores Jiménez, Ricardo Andrés Cacho, María Fernanda Cánovas, Guillermo Fonseca, Pablo Monroy, Ingrid Tardán, Paola Vallejo (Mexico); Hernán Estrada, Iván Lara, Juan Ramón Barrios, Luis Alvarado, Agnes Alvarado (Nicaragua); Antonio Lam (Panama); María Soledad Machuca, Melissa Benítez (Paraguay); Javier Yépez (Peru); Judith Jones-Morgan (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines); Rolinne Gravenbeek, Rosita Hubard, (Suriname); Samraj Harripaul (Trinidad and Tobago); Robert Leventhal, Jane Ley, Wendy Pond, (United States); José Pedro Montero, Iván Toledo, Milton Romani, Paula Rolando (Uruguay); Adelina González y Basilio Jáuregui, (Venezuela).

II. PROCEEDINGS

At the start of the meeting, the Chair of the Committee presented the draft agenda and schedule for consideration, which were adopted by consensus (Annexes I and II).

In compliance with agenda item 1, the Technical Secretariat submitted a report on recent developments and items on the agenda related to the review process, topics of collective interest, cooperation tools, and the operations and funding of the MESICIC.

The Committee then turned its attention to agenda item 2 and considered, in order, the draft preliminary country reports on Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Canada, Ecuador, and Guyana.

In reviewing the preliminary draft country reports, the Committee proceeded in accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure. Thus, in each case, the preliminary review subgroup presented the content and scope of its preliminary draft report; then, the state party under review made a brief statement in regard to the preliminary report; and, finally, the Committee examined the corresponding draft report, with the experts' observations and comments being offered on the chapters and sections in order.

For each draft report it examined, the Committee agreed on modifications, and it gave instructions for the corresponding changes to be made and for the revised versions to be submitted to the plenary for consideration and final approval.

Regarding agenda item 3, it was agreed that on this occasion, as an exceptional measure, the oral presentations would not be given; that notwithstanding, the progress reports received would be distributed in electronic format.

Then, under agenda item 4, the "responsibility of the private sector in preventing and combating corruption" topic of collective interest, presentations were given by Sandy Merber of the International Chamber of Commerce, Jorge Abrahao of the Instituto ETHOS of Brazil, and Arjun Ponnambalam of Pricewaterhouse Coopers Advisory LLC. The electronic versions of all these presentations are attached as annex III and will be posted on the Anti-corruption Portal of the Americas.

The Committee dealt with the final review of the draft country reports for Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Canada, Ecuador, and Guyana; after comments were offered on each, the reports were adopted by consensus. The approved texts of those five country reports may be found in Annexes IV, V, VI, VIII and VIII of these minutes.

In discharging agenda item 8, "Other business":

- a) Regarding the proposed amendments to Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure as regards the election of the Chair and Vice Chair, after a number of comments on the matter, the Committee decided to postpone its consideration of the topic until its next meeting.

In addition, the Committee instructed the Technical Secretariat to prepare and distribute, prior to the next meeting, a proposal for amending the Rules of Procedure that would stipulate that, should a lead expert be absent from a meeting of the Committee, the alternate expert would substitute for the absent expert in the adoption of decisions at that meeting, and clarifying the majority needed to amend the Rules of Procedure in light of the discrepancy on this point in the current Articles 13 and 38 of the Rules of Procedure.

It also instructed the Technical Secretariat, before the next meeting, to ask those delegations that need to do so to update the details of the lead experts and other experts who represent their countries on the Committee.

- b) In connection with the live transmission, via webcast, of the Committee's informal meeting with civil society organizations, held in accordance with Article 36 of the Rules of Procedure, the Technical Secretariat reported that, in line with the proposal made at the previous meeting by Abigail Benzadón, Vice Chair of Committee and lead expert for Panama, those live transmissions would indicate that they were being officially broadcast by the OAS, through the inclusion of the Organization's logo or any other means deemed appropriate to that end, and they would indicate that the opinions expressed therein did not reflect the official position of either the states or the OAS.
- c) The Committee extended a special acknowledgement to Mathilda Haykal-Sater, the lead expert of Canada, for her contributions to the Committee's work on the occasion of her assumption of new duties and the conclusion of her service as that state's representative on the Committee.
- d) The Committee requested that its recognition and thanks to the Technical Secretariat for its professional and efficient work be placed on record.
- e) The delegation of Haiti requested that consideration be given to providing interpreting services into the French language during the examination of the draft report on that state during the next meeting. The Technical Secretariat said it would be pleased to consider the request, given its exceptional nature, and in accordance with the MESICIC's limited financial resources.

Before ending the meeting, the Technical Secretariat read out these minutes, which were then unanimously approved by the plenary of the Committee, together with all the annexes that form an integral part thereof.

Washington, D.C., March 21, 2014

ANNEXES		
No.	Title	File
I	Agenda of the Twenty-third Meeting of the Committee	
II	Schedule of the Twenty- third Meeting of the Committee	
III	Instituto Ethos: <i>Responsabilidade do Setor Privado na Prevenção e no Combate à Corrupção.</i>	
	International Chamber of Commerce: <i>Responsibility of the Private Sector in Preventing and Combating Corruption.</i>	
	Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC): <i>Addressing Corruption from a Private Sector Perspective.</i>	
IV	Report of Nicaragua on the implementation of the provision selected for review in the Fourth Round, and on follow-up to the recommendations formulated in the First Round.	
V	Report of the Dominican Republic on the implementation of the provision selected for review in the Fourth Round, and on follow-up to the recommendations formulated in the First Round	
VI	Report of Canada on the implementation of the provision selected for review in the Fourth Round, and on follow-up to the recommendations formulated in the First Round	
VII	Report of Ecuador on the implementation of the provision selected for review in the Fourth Round, and on follow-up to the recommendations formulated in the First Round	
VIII	Report of Guyana on the implementation of the provision selected for review in the Fourth Round, and on follow-up to the recommendations formulated in the First Round	