

MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION
Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Committee of Experts
September 8-12, 2014
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L
SG/MESICIC/doc.429/14
12 September 2014
Original: Spanish

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

I. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the schedule for the Fourth Round of Review agreed upon by the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), the Committee's Twenty-Fourth Meeting was held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., from September 8 to 12, 2014.

This meeting was attended by the following representatives of the States Parties: Steadroy Benjamin, Annete Mark (Antigua and Barbuda); Néstor Baragli (Argentina); Franklyn Williams (Bahamas); Iran Tillet-Dominguez (Belize); María Isabel Marca (Bolivia); Camila Colares, Elizabeth Cosmo, Tiago Farias, Carlos Lima, Marcia Dantas (Brazil); Douglas Breithaupt, Dana Cryderman, Jean Luc Pilon (Canada); Mónica Rueda, Yadir Salazar (Colombia); Tatiana Gutiérrez (Costa Rica); Daniella Caldana, Alberto Rodríguez, Priscila Jara, Alicia de la Cruz, Francisco Devis (Chile); Simón Castaños (Dominican Republic); Mario Hidalgo, Marcela Miranda (Ecuador); Álvaro Magaña, Neri Ramón Granados (El Salvador); Robert Branch (Grenada); Verónica Taracena (Guatemala); Forbes July (Guyana); Antoine Atouriste, Yvlore Pigeot, Joseph Jean Figaro, Patrick Salomm, Romero Latry, Fabienne Deyis, Marie Andrée Brutus (Haiti); Jorge Bográn, Rigoberto Córdova Laitano (Honduras); Nicole Foster-Pusey, Alicia McIntosh, Julia Hyatt (Jamaica); Teresa Gómez del Campo, Carlos Manuel Padilla Pérez-Vertti, Héctor del Castillo, Valentina Valdez, Pablo Monroy, Jorge Cruz Becerra (Mexico); Julieta Blandón (Nicaragua); Antonio Lam, Agustín Miranda (Panama); María Soledad Machuca, Melissa Benítez Cattebeke (Paraguay); Susana Silva Hasembank, Javier Yépez (Peru); Jason Hamilton, Simone Bullen-Thompson (Saint Kitts and Nevis); Omari Williams (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines); Rolinne Gravenbeek, Chantal Elsenhout, Rosita Hubard, Harold Commissie, Sieglien Aviankoi, Monique Pool (Suriname); Debora Grout, Tiffany Norris (United States); José Pedro Montero, Iván Toledo (Uruguay); Adelina González, Basilio Jáuregui, Carmen Velazquez de Visbal y Marlene da Vargem (Venezuela)

II. PROCEEDINGS

The Chair of the Committee began by submitting the draft agenda and draft schedule for consideration. With respect to the latter, it was agreed that item 7.1 ("Proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure so that it would stipulate that in the absence of a lead expert at the meetings of the Committee, an alternate expert can substitute the absent lead expert") would be considered immediately after Item 1 on the Agenda. With that change, the draft agenda and draft schedule were adopted by consensus (Annexes I and II).

Pursuant to Item 1 on the Agenda, the Technical Secretariat presented a report on recent developments and matters contemplated in the agenda with regard to the review process, topics of collective interest, cooperation tools, and MESICIC operations and funding.

Subsequently, and in view of the previously adopted change in the schedule, the Committee took note of the correction to the Spanish, French, and Portuguese versions of the first paragraph of Article 38 of the Rules of Procedure, to bring them into line with Article 13 thereof. The Committee also approved the proposed amendment to Article 2 of the Rules of Procedure, establishing that in the absence of the lead expert at the meetings of the Committee, the other experts, in the order of preference notified by the State Party, would replace him or her for all purposes contemplated in the Rules of Procedure. Accordingly, the texts of Articles 2 and 38 of the Rules of Procedure are included as Annex III to these Minutes and the Secretariat will prepare and publish a revised version of the Rules of Procedure containing the new versions of Articles 2 and 38.

Regarding Item 2 on the Agenda, it was agreed to allow until the following day for the presentation of candidacies. Within that deadline, Simón Castaños, the lead expert of the Dominican Republic, was nominated as a candidate for the position of Committee Chair for the upcoming term, pursuant to the agreement reached at the Fifteenth Meeting and as provided for in Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure.

The Committee then turned its attention to Item 3 on the Agenda and considered the preliminary draft country reports of Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Suriname, Belize, and Haiti, in that order.

In considering the preliminary draft country reports, the Committee abided by the provisions of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure. Thus, in each case, the preliminary review subgroup gave a presentation on the contents and scope of the draft; then, the State Party reviewed took the floor to talk about the draft report. The Committee then considered that draft report, with the experts making comments and observations, keeping to the order of the chapters and sections making up each draft.

For each of the draft reports considered, the Committee agreed on changes to be made and gave instructions with respect to those changes and the presentation of a revised version of each report to be submitted for consideration and final approval.

Under Item 6 on the agenda, representatives of CREATE, the Fairfax Group, and the International Bar Association then gave presentations on the collective interest topic regarding “the responsibility of the private sector in preventing and combating corruption.”

A World Bank representative gave a presentation on “The Anti-Corruption Authorities (ACAs) Initiative”.

Finally, under “Topics of Collective Interest,” the lead expert of Brazil gave a presentation on “International Cooperation on Non-Criminal Matters in the Fight against Corruption”.

The electronic versions of the aforementioned presentations are shown in Annex IV.

The Committee then proceeded to consider the Work Program of the Committee for the year 2014-2015 (Item 5 on the Agenda). It was agreed to include, as topics of collective interest, “International Cooperation on Non-Criminal Matters in the Fight against Corruption” (proposed by the delegation of Brazil) and “Education for Values” (proposed by the delegation of Argentina).

The Committee also accepted an offer by the delegation of Peru to transmit, prior to the next meeting and through the Technical Secretariat, the study it has been preparing on the topic of collective interest entitled “The responsibility of the private sector in preventing and combating corruption” and to deliver a presentation on that study at the next meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC. With the aforementioned changes, the Committee adopted its Work Program for the year 2014-2015, which is appended as Annex V.

Next, in view of a change in the schedule for the meeting, the Committee considered Item 7.2 of the agenda. Following deliberations, the Committee approved adding the following text as the second paragraph of Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure: “To become Chair or Vice-Chair, an expert must have taken part in at least two previous meetings of the Committee.” The Technical Secretariat will prepare and disseminate a revised version of the Rules of Procedure with the aforementioned change adopted by the Committee at this meeting.

The Committee then addressed item 6 on the agenda and, pursuant to Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure elected from among its members Simón Castaños the Lead Expert of the Dominican Republic, and Iran Tillet-Dominguez, the Lead Expert of Belize, to be Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, respectively, for a one-year term.

The Committee undertook a final review of the draft country reports for Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Suriname, Belize, and Haiti, which, following comments on each of them, were approved by consensus. The approved texts of those country reports are to be found in Annexes VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, and XI of these minutes.

Under agenda item 8, “Other business”:

a) The Committee agreed that the items to be reviewed in the framework of the Fifth Round would be those relating to Articles III.3 (“Instruction to government personnel to ensure proper understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical rules governing their activities”) and 12 (“The study of further preventive measures that take into account the relationship between equitable compensation and probity in public service”) of the Convention. In addition, bearing in mind the stance taken by the Third Meeting of the Conference of States Parties of the MESICIC, the Committee followed suit and decided, with respect to follow-up on recommendations, that in the Fifth Round it would follow up on issues reviewed in the Second Round.

b) Accordingly, the Committee instructed the Technical Secretariat to prepare and distribute, prior to the Committee’s next meeting, the respective draft questionnaire, methodology, report structure, and schedule for the Fifth Round, as provided for in the Rules of Procedure, in order for the Committee to be able to consider them at that meeting.

It also requested that, for future Rounds, proposals regarding topics to be reviewed in those rounds be distributed prior to the meetings at which they are to be considered.

c) The delegation of Brazil announced its intention to host the next meeting of the Conference of States Parties of the MESICIC and said it would coordinate arrangements with the Technical Secretariat.

d) The delegation of the United States mentioned the *Foreign Bribery and Corruption Conference*, to be held in Washington, D.C. from October 27 to 31, 2014, and reiterated its invitation to MESICIC experts to take part therein.

e) The delegation of Costa Rica mentioned the regional event relating to Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative, to be held in that country in November 2014, and said it would forward information regarding it to the delegations via the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC.

f) The Canadian expert, seconded by the Chair and other experts, asked that a mention be placed on record in the Minutes expressing recognition by the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC of the work of the Lead Expert of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and that State's Comptroller General, Adelina González, in view of the information received at this meeting that she will shortly be leaving that post.

g) The delegation of Argentina requested that mention also be made in the Minutes of the recognition by the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC of the professionalism and efficiency of the staff of the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC and of the Committee's support for their continuing to work in that capacity, especially in light of the fact that there will soon be a change in the highest authorities of the OAS General Secretariat.

h) The Chair underscored the importance of continuing to systematize and facilitate the dissemination and exchange of information regarding best practices of States in the areas addressed by the MESICIC.

Before declaring the meeting closed, the Technical Secretariat read these minutes out loud. They were adopted by the plenary of the Committee by consensus, together with all their Annexes, which form an integral part thereof.

Washington, D.C., September 12, 2014

ANNEXES		
No.	Title	File
I	Agenda of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Committee	
II	Schedule of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Committee	
III	Correction with respect to Article 38 and proposed amendment to Article 2 of the Rules of Procedure and Other Provisions of the Committee of Experts	
IV	International Bar Association: <i>Anticorruption Strategy for the Legal Profession</i>	
	Center for Responsible Enterprise and Trade (CREATE): <i>Preventing Corruption</i>	
	World Bank: <i>Autoridades Anticorrupción (AAC): Desafíos y buenas prácticas</i>	
V	Work Program for the Year 2014-2015	
VI	Report of Jamaica 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 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 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 Grenada 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	
IX	Report of Suriname 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	
X	Report of Belize 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	
XI	Report of Haiti on the implementation of the provisions selected for review in the First and Fourth Rounds	