



MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION  
Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Committee of Experts  
March 7 to 11, 2016  
Washington, D.C.

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

**I. BACKGROUND**

In keeping with the schedule for the Fifth Round of Review agreed upon by the Committee of Experts of the Mechanism for Follow-up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), the Committee's twenty-sixth meeting was held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., from March 7 to 11, 2016.

This meeting was attended by the following representatives of the States Parties: Néstor Baragli, Cynthia Liliana Hotton (Argentina); Iran Tillet-Dominguez (Belize); Lenny Valdivia, Diego Pary, Javier Hinojosa, Isabel Marca (Bolivia); Camila Colares, Viviane Prado Sabbag (Brasil); Mathilda Haykal Sater (Canada); Mila Francisco (Chile); Andrés González, Camilo Andrés Enciso, Yadir Salazar, Carlos Iván Plazas, Álvaro Calderón, Viancy Ortiz (Colombia); Tatiana Gutiérrez (Costa Rica); Rafael Basora (Dominican Republic); Carmita Idrovo, Juan Antonio Peña, Andrés Sierra (Ecuador); Gustavo Adolfo Argueta (El Salvador); Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, Luis Raúl Esteves, Mauricio Benard Estrada (Guatemala); Aubrey Heath Retemyer (Guyana); Bocchit Edmond, Marie Andrée Brutus-Amy, Antonio Thierry Nicolas Mayard Paul, Estelle-Laure Gilles (Haiti); Jorge Bográn, Rigoberto Córdova (Honduras); Kathy-Ann Brown (Jamaica); Emilio Rabasa, Jaime Cerdio, Ximena Mariscal, Virgilio Evangelista (Mexico); Angélica Maytin Justiniani, Antonio Lam, Agustín Miranda (Panama); Elisa Ruíz Díaz, Federico Espinoza Espínola, Roy Rodgers Canás, Miguel Ángel Romero, Inés Martínez Valinotti, Fabián Forestieri, Jorge Ruíz Díaz (Paraguay); Rosemary Marcela Cornejo Valdivia, César Zanabria Chávez, César Delgado Contreras, Víctor Prado Saldarriaga, Ana Lucía Nieto (Peru); Sachi Antrieka Ramlal-Soekhoe (Suriname); Zauditu Isis Laxmi Elaine Lessey-Perreira (Trinidad and Tobago); Debora Grout (United States); José Pedro Montero, Hugo Cayrus Maurin, Pedro Valenzuela (Uruguay); Bernardo Álvarez Herrera, Carmen Velásquez de Visbal, Yurubith Escobar, Haydelin Villegas, David Bustillos, Zhaybel Cárdenas, José Monzón, Mauricio Galindo, Yanfer Quintana, Marlene Da Vargem Da Silva (Venezuela)

**II. PROCEEDINGS**

The Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Nestor Mendez, attended the opening of the meeting and delivered an address, the full text of which is appended to these minutes as Annex I.

Following consideration of the first item on the order of business, the agenda and schedule of the meeting (Annexes II and III), the Technical Secretariat presented a report on activities carried out since the last meeting of the Committee, and referred, in particular, to the recommendations adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC.

Next, pursuant to item 2 on the agenda, candidacies were presented for the positions of chair and vice chair of the Committee, with the lead expert of Canada, Mathilda Haykal Sater, nominated as chair, and the lead expert of Argentina, Néstor Baragli, as vice chair.

The Committee then turned its attention to item 3 on the agenda and considered the preliminary draft country reports of Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Peru, 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 review subgroup delivered 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.

The meeting then turned to item 4 on the agenda and, in keeping with Article 31 of the Rules of Procedure, representatives of States Parties submitted brief verbal reports on the measures adopted by their respective states between March 16, 2015 and March 7, 2016, with respect to the recommendations made by the Committee as well as on other progress related to the implementation of the Convention during that period. An electronic copy of those reports drafted in a standard format approved by the Committee will be published on the Internet web page of the Mechanism.”

Then, pursuant to item 5 on the agenda, the following presentations were given on matters of collective interest:

- 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.
- The organizations International Anti-Corruption Resource Center (IACRC) and Open Contracting Partnership offered a presentation on prevention and combating of corruption in government procurement.

The Committee then undertook a final review of the draft country reports for Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Peru, which, following comments on each of them, were approved by consensus. The approved texts of those four country reports are enclosed as annexes of these minutes.

Next, the meeting proceeded to consider the work program of the Committee for 2016-2017 (item 6 in the agenda), which was adopted by consensus.

Thereafter, the Committee addressed item 7 on the agenda and pursuant to Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure elected from among its members by consensus and acclamation Mathilda Haykal Sater, the lead expert of Canada, and Néstor Baragli, the lead expert of Argentina, as Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, respectively, for a one-year term.

Next, under agenda item 8, "Other business":

- a) The Committee considered the requests of Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela concerning the sequence of their review and decided that they would be analyzed in that order at the end of the last group of countries to be reviewed in the Fifth Round.
- b) In light of the need to husband the resources available for the Committee's activities, ensure an in-depth analysis of the country reports, and have the time needed at committee meetings to implement the recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC, the Committee decided that from its next meeting on four country reports would be considered and adopted and that sufficient opportunity would be afforded to include consideration of the issues envisaged in the recommendations so that progress could be made with their implementation.
- c) In order to avoid, as a consequence of the foregoing, Bahamas and Grenada being placed in a group of countries in which they would have to act as both countries under review and members of a review subgroup, the Committee decided to swap their positions in the review order, so that Grenada might occupy first place in the fifth group, the position that belonged to the Bahamas, while the latter would take Grenada's former second-place position in the sixth group. The only implication of this was that Bahamas would be reviewed at the thirty-first meeting of the Committee rather than at the thirtieth meeting; as for Grenada, there would be no change in terms of the scheduled timing of its review, which would be done at the thirtieth meeting, as was already envisaged.
- d) Bearing in mind that the review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been moved to the last group of countries to be analyzed in the Fifth Round, in order to avoid that country being both a state under review and a member of a review subgroup in that group, the Committee decided to include it in the Belize review subgroup, instead of Honduras, and that the latter would be a member of the review subgroup for Guatemala, in place of Venezuela.
- e) The Committee authorized the Technical Secretariat to make the appropriate modifications to reflect the foregoing in both the order and the schedule adopted for the Fifth Round, and to draw up and distribute a revised version of both documents.
- f) The delegation of Brazil asked that the questionnaire on the collective-interest issue of international cooperation on non-criminal matters in the fight against corruption be distributed anew by the Technical Secretariat.
- g) The Committee agreed unanimously to set down on record the appreciation and congratulations expressed by its members to Dr. José Pedro Montero for his excellent work and contributions to the Committee during his term as lead expert of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, which concluded at the meeting.

- h) Likewise, the Committee unanimously approved the motion of the delegation of Argentina to commend the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC on the high quality of its work and to express its immense appreciation for the support that it provides to the Committee, which it considers highly important to maintain, in spite of the Organization's financial constraints.

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 are an integral part thereof.

Washington, D.C., March 11, 2016

<b>ANNEXES</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>I</b>	Remarks of the OAS Assistant Secretary General.	
<b>II</b>	Agenda of the Meeting.	
<b>III</b>	Schedule of the Meeting.	
<b>IV</b>	Report of the <u>Plurinational State of Bolivia</u> .	
<b>V</b>	Report of the <u>Oriental Republic of Uruguay</u> .	
<b>VI</b>	Report of the <u>Republic of Paraguay</u> .	
<b>VII</b>	Report of the <u>Republic of Peru</u> .	