

MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION
Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Committee of Experts
March 16-20, 2015
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L
SG/MESICIC/doc.446/15 rev. 1
14 April 2015
Original: Spanish

MINUTES
OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE
MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON 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 Mechanism for Follow-Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), the Committee's Twenty-Fifth Meeting was held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., from March 16 to 20, 2015.

This meeting was attended by the following persons in representation of the States Parties: Annete Mark (Antigua and Barbuda); Néstor Baragli (Argentina); Iran Tillet-Dominguez (Belize); Lenny Valdivia Bautista, María Isabel Marca (Bolivia); Camila Colares, Carlos Bruno Ferreira da Silva, Tiago Santos Farias, Flavio Antonio da Silva Dotal (Brazil); Mathilda Haykal Salter (Canada); Mónica Rueda, Juan Carlos Novoa, Jaime Andrés Gnecco Daza, Yadir Salazar (Colombia); Tatiana Gutiérrez (Costa Rica); Rafael Basora (Dominican Republic); Luis Felipe Sepúlveda, Felipe Aliaga, María Isabel Mercadal, Alberto Rodríguez, Solange Huerta Reyes, María Loreto Gutiérrez (Chile); Carmita Idrovo (Ecuador); Luis Menéndez, César Martínez (El Salvador); Verónica Taracena, María Aguja Zuñiga (Guatemala); Jean Baptiste Rodiny, Yvlore Pigeot, Marie-Andree Brutus Amy (Haiti); Daisy Oseguera, Rigoberto Córdova Laitano, Renán Sagastume (Honduras); Alicia McIntosh (Jamaica); Jaime Cerdio, María Fernanda Cánovas (Mexico); Angélica Maytin Justiniani, Antonio Lam, Agustín Miranda (Panama); Miguel Ángel Romero (Paraguay); Víctor Hugo Prado, Hugo Príncipe, Rafael Vega, Ana Lucía Nieto (Peru); Simone Bullen-Thompson (Saint Kitts and Nevis); Damian Gomez, Franly, Tracee Dorestant, Krissy Hanna (The Bahamas); Sieg Aviankoi (Suriname); Samraj Harripaul (Trinidad and Tobago); Debora Grout; Robert Leventhal; Jane Ley; Wendy Pond; Ray Hulser; Karen Gorman; Mark Jones; Dara Duncan; Erin Boyer; Catherine McMullen; Mark Cohen; Michael Horowitz; Allison Lerner; Brett Baker; Tim Camus; Diana Veilleux; Barbara Mullen-Roth; Jennifer Matis; Kim Kaplan (United States); Pedro Valenzuela Durand (Uruguay); Manuel Enrique Galindo Ballesteros, Jesús Peña Rolando, Yarubith Escobar, Giuson Flores, Haydelin Villegas y José Monzón (Venezuela).

II. PROCEEDINGS

The Secretary General of the OAS, Dr. José Miguel Insulza, participated in the inauguration of the meeting and gave a speech, the full text of which is attached to these Minutes as Annex I.

Pursuant to Item 1 on the agenda and the schedule for this meeting (Annexes II and III), the Technical Secretariat presented a report on actions undertaken since the last meeting of the Committee and on the documents prepared for this meeting.

The Committee then turned its attention to Item 3 on the agenda and considered the preliminary draft country reports of Venezuela, The Bahamas, United States, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, 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. The plenary then considered each draft report, with the experts making comments and observations, following the order of the chapters and sections making up each draft.

For each of the draft reports considered, the Committee agreed upon 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 4 on the agenda, the Technical Secretariat informed the Committee that 25 States Parties had formally communicated their consent, through their respective permanent missions to the OAS, for the holding of an on-site visit in the framework of the Fifth Round of Review, pursuant to the Methodology for Conducting On-Site Visits adopted by the Committee at its Eighteenth Meeting. Those States are listed in Annex IV to these Minutes.

The Committee then reviewed the documents prepared for to begin the Fifth Round of Review, in the order shown in the agenda.

Accordingly, the Committee began by considering the draft questionnaire, methodology, and structures of the reports. Several delegations commented on these documents and made various proposals. Based on those proposals, the Committee undertook a final review and approved the questionnaire, methodology, and structures of reports for the Fifth Round. They are attached as Annexes V, VI, VII, and VIII.

The Committee also considered and adopted the Schedule for the Fifth Round of Review, based on the proposal of the Technical Secretariat, which is attached as Annex IX.

With respect to the order or sequence in which the States Parties' data would be reviewed in the framework of the Fifth Round, it was agreed that first reviewed would be those States that volunteered, followed by the other States in chronological order of their ratification of the Convention. The States that volunteered to begin the Fifth Round reviews were: Bolivia, Guatemala, and Uruguay. Additionally, responding to requests by the States concerned, it was agreed that Venezuela and Argentina would form part of the third group, and, in their place, Trinidad and Tobago and Honduras would form part of the second group. It was further agreed that Brazil would join the fifth group, instead of the United States, which would become part of the sixth group. Based on that decision, the order or sequence for reviewing the information of the States Parties in the framework of the Fifth Round is set out in Annex X.

Next, the Committee approved the proposal regarding the composition of the preliminary review subgroups, as set forth in the document attached as Annex XI and, as agreed by the Committee, the respective review subgroups were selected for each of the States Parties in the framework of the Fifth Round. Their composition is shown in Annex XII.

The following presentations were then delivered, as part of the consideration of topics of collective interest:

- The organizations “*Trace International*” and “*Open Contracting*” gave presentations on private sector responsibility in preventing and combating corruption and in ensuring transparency in government procurement, respectively.
- The delegation of Brazil gave a presentation on the topic of collective interest related to non-criminal international cooperation in combating corruption. Here, reference was made to a questionnaire to be sent to the delegations via the Technical Secretariat, the replies to which will be sent to the delegation of Brazil.
- The delegation of Colombia gave a presentation on progress made in that State with respect to the collective interest relating to private sector responsibility in preventing and combating corruption.

Subsequently, the Committee undertook a final review of the draft country reports for Venezuela, The Bahamas, United States, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, which, following comments on each of them, were approved by consensus. The approved texts of those five country reports are included in Annexes XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, and XVII of these minutes, respectively.

The Committee then addressed Item 5 on the agenda. In so doing, and based on the draft prepared by the Technical Secretariat, the Committee considered and adopted the Hemispheric Report on the Fourth Round of Review, which is attached as Annex XVIII.

The Committee then addressed Item 7 on the agenda. Pursuant to Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee then elected the Lead Expert of Argentina, Néstor Baragli., by consensus, as the Vice Chair for the remainder of the period.

Under agenda item 9, "Other business":

- a) The delegations of Honduras, Colombia, and Mexico presented information on progress made with fighting corruption in their countries.
- b) Bolivia reported that it had submitted a proposed paragraph to the SIRG (Summit Implementation Review Group) for the document being negotiated in preparation for the next Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, which several delegations had commented on.
- c) The delegation of Brazil reported that, as soon as it had a proposed date for the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC, it would forward it through the Technical Secretariat.

In response to a proposal by the delegation of Argentina, seconded by Mexico, the Committee adopted by consensus a motion of congratulations and support for the Technical Secretariat of 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., March 20, 2015

ANNEXES		
No.	Title	Link
I	Remarks of the OAS Secretary General at the inauguration of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Committee (<i>Spanish only</i>).	
II	Agenda of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Committee.	
III	Schedule of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Committee.	
IV	Information received by the Technical Secretariat in connection with the States Parties' consent for on-site visits to be conducted during the Fifth Round of Review and the offers made by certain States to be reviewed at the start of that round.	
V	Questionnaire regarding follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations formulated and the provisions reviewed in the Second Round, and on the Convention provisions selected for the Fifth Round.	
VI	Methodology for follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations formulated and provisions reviewed in the Second Round and for the analysis of the Convention provisions selected for the Fifth Round.	
VII	Format for the country reports that will be prepared in the framework of the Fifth Round.	
VIII	Format for the country reports that will be prepared in the framework of the Fifth Round for States that were not party to the MESICIC in the Second Round.	
IX	Schedule for the Fifth Round of Review.	
X	Sequence for the review of the information of the States Parties within the framework of the Fifth Round.	

XI	Proposal for the composition of the review Subgroups within the framework of the Fifth Round.	
XII	Composition of the review Subgroups in the framework of the Fifth Round.	
XIII	Report of Venezuela 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.	
XIV	Report of The Bahamas 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.	
XV	Report of the United States 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.	
XVI	Report of Antigua and Barbuda on the implementation of the provisions selected for review in the First and Fourth Rounds.	
XVII	Report of Saint Kitts and Nevis on the implementation of the provisions selected for review in the First and Fourth Rounds.	
XVIII	Hemispheric Report on the Fourth Round of Review.	