

In 1996, the OAS Member states adopted the first international anticorruption legal instrument, and in 2002 they initiated the mechanism which evaluates its fulfillment. Since that time, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the Follow-Up Mechanism for its Implementation (MESICIC), have represented the principal cooperation instruments for preventing, detecting, punishing and eradicating corruption in the Americas.



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States Party:	Convention	MESICIC
Antigua y Barbuda	✓	
Argentina	✓	✓
Bahamas	✓	✓
Barbados		
Belize	✓	✓
Bolivia	✓	✓
Brazil	✓	✓
Canada	✓	✓
Colombia	✓	✓
Costa Rica	✓	✓
Chile	✓	✓
Dominica	✓	
Dominican Republic	✓	✓
Ecuador	✓	✓
El Salvador	✓	✓
Grenada	✓	✓
Guatemala	✓	✓
Guyana	✓	✓
Haiti	✓	
Honduras	✓	✓
Jamaica	✓	✓
Mexico	✓	✓
Nicaragua	✓	✓
Panama	✓	✓
Paraguay	✓	✓
Peru	✓	✓
Saint Kitts y Nevis	✓	
Saint Lucia	✓	
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	✓	✓
Suriname	✓	✓
Trinidad y Tobago	✓	✓
United States	✓	✓
Uruguay	✓	✓
Venezuela	✓	✓

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## The Inter-American Convention against Corruption and its Follow-Up Mechanism (MESICIC)



**Secretariat for Legal Affairs**  
 Department of Legal Cooperation



## Inter-American Convention against Corruption

The Inter-American Convention against Corruption, adopted in March, 1996, in Caracas, Venezuela, is the first legal instrument in this field which recognizes the international reach of corruption and the need to promote and facilitate cooperation between states in order to fight against it.

### Purposes of the Convention

- To promote and strengthen the development by each of the States Parties of the mechanisms needed to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption.
- To promote, facilitate and regulate cooperation among the States Parties to ensure the effectiveness of the measures and actions to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption in the performance of public functions and acts of corruption specifically related to such performance.

### Content of the Convention

The Convention establishes a set of preventive measures; provides for the criminalization of certain acts of corruption, including transnational bribery and illicit enrichment; and contains a series of provisions to strengthen the cooperation between its States Parties in areas such as mutual legal assistance and technical cooperation, extradition and identification, tracing, freezing, seizure and forfeiture of property or proceeds obtained, derived from or used in the commission of acts of corruption, among others.

- Promote the implementation of the Convention and contribute to the achievement of its purposes;
- Follow-up on the commitments assumed by the States Parties and analyze the manner in which they are being implemented; and
- Facilitate technical cooperation activities; the exchange of information, experiences and best practices; and the harmonization of the legislation of the States Parties.

### Principles of the MESICIC

The MESICIC is developed in the framework of the purposes established by the Charter of the OAS. In addition, it takes into account the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, and juridical equality of the states.

### Characteristics of the MESICIC

The MESICIC is impartial and objective in its operations. It neither sanctions, grades, nor classifies states. Rather it facilitates cooperation between them.

The MESICIC seeks to establish an adequate balance between the confidentiality and transparency in its activities. In addition, although it is intergovernmental in nature, it may receive contributions from civil society organizations.

The MESICIC is composed of:

- The Conference of States Parties, which has the general authority and responsibility for implementing the mechanism.
- The Committee of Experts, which is responsible for the technical review of the implementation of the Convention.
- The Technical Secretariat, exercised by the General Secretariat of the OAS, through the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs.

### How does the MESICIC operate?

The MESICIC is a process of reciprocal evaluation among the states that form a part of it, within the framework of successive "rounds" which review how the states are implementing the provisions of the Convention selected for each round.

For these purposes, country reports are adopted, which formulate concrete recommendations to each state, in order for them to close the legal gaps that have been detected; correct the inadequacies that have been found; and put indicators in place which allow an objective determination of the results that have been achieved in relation to the implementation of those provisions.

Civil society organizations participate in this process by submitting information alongside the information submitted by the respective state.

At the conclusion of a round, the Committee adopts a Hemispheric Report.

**Where can more information about the Convention and the MESICIC be found?**  
**Anti-corruption Portal of the Americas**  
[www.oas.org/juridico/english/FightCur.html](http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/FightCur.html)