



MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION
Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Committee of Experts
March 13-16, 2023
Washington, D.C.

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MINUTES
OF THE THIRTY-NINTH 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 Sixth 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 39th Meeting of the Committee was held from March 13 to 16, 2023.

This in-person meeting was held at the OAS headquarters in Washington DC, United States, with the option for connecting remotely.

This meeting was attended by the following representatives of the States Parties: Vanessa Moe, Ryan Johnson (Antigua and Barbuda); Luis Villanueva, Déborah Hafford, Omar Sosa, Yanina Ariotti (Argentina); Kenrah Newry (Bahamas) Embajador Lynn Raymond Young, Cinnamon Bottaro, Cesar Ross, Clara Chi (Belize); Julia Susana Ríos Laguna, Bayardo Martínez Villarroel, Aldrin Barrientos Vargas, Mauricio Argandoña, Andreína Honorio, Nora Gemio Zabala, Patricia Moldiz Castillo (Bolivia); Vânia Lúcia Ribeiro Vieira, Adriano Souza de Freitas, Gustavo Meira Carneiro, Cinthia Dominues da Silva, Edson Fábio Garutti Moreira, (Brazil); Erin Cassidy, Maude Kostine (Canada); Daniella Caldana Fulss, Ariel Hurel Varas, Cristina Vio Gorget, Julio Torres González, Jorge Norambuena Carrillo, María Jesús Rojas Vera, Yelica Lusic Nadal, Mayra Johana Zambrano, Carolina Álvarez Gaete, Karina Elizabeth Ruiz B., Bernardo Navarrete Yáñez (Chile); Andres Idarraga Franco, Mauricio Pinzon Camargo, Embajador Luis Ernesto Vargas, Sandra Lucia Mikan Venegas (Colombia); Lissy Dorado Vargas, Kenia Alvarado (Costa Rica); Berenice Barinas Ubiñas, Carlos Pimentel, Embajador Josué Fiallo Billini, Erika Álvarez, Mabel García, Mabel Infante (Dominican Republic); Vanessa Gutiérrez, Benjamín Marcelo Vásconez, Natalia Estefania Endara Eraso, Juan Manuel Proaño Aguilar, Mirna Estacio Caicedo, Carlos de Domingo Soler, Toa Carolina Murguytio Nuñez, María Lorena Figuera Acosta, Sofia Natalia del Castillo Freire, Diego Fernando Vinueza Osorio (Ecuador); Elmer Humberto Castro Hernández, Gerardo Arístides Márquez Reyes, Embajador Agustín Vásquez Gómez, Embajadora Adjunta Wendy Acevedo, Carla Rivera (El Salvador); Oscar Miguel Dávila Mejicanos, Gonzalo Vásquez, Eunice Lemus Castañeda, Andrea Domenika Fernández Rodríguez (Guatemala); Gail Teixeira (Guyana); Hans Jacques Ludwig Joseph, Ronald Mathurin (Haiti); Ricardo Rodríguez, Melissa Paz (Honduras); Marlene Malahoo Forte, Wayne O. Robertson, Natalie James, Michelle Walker, Sherise Gayle, Shelly-Ann Thompson, Ryan Evans (Jamaica); Luis Enrique Pereda Trejo, Valentina Valdez Jasso, Mariana Yáñez López, Embajadora Elena Baños Rivas, Martín Muñoz-

Ledo, Cindy Guadalupe Mendoza Pérez (Mexico); Embajadora Maria Roquebert, Elsa Fernández Aguilar, Tania Vásquez, Orlando Castillo, Astrid González, Edwin Juárez, Liza Guevara (Panama); María Soledad Machuca Vidal, Raúl Martínez Villalba, Cecilia Pérez Rivas, (Paraguay); Sara Evelyn Farfan Cuba (Peru); Kozel Creese (Saint Lucia); Lahdail Horne, Rochelle Bullock (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) Sieglien Aviankoi, Juanita Lont, (Suriname); Ian Rampersad (Trinidad and Tobago); Kellen McClure, Teddi Shihadeh-Bouffard, Nikhita Godbole, April Snedeker, Hermes Grullon, Sama Habib, Kathleen Coogan (United States of America); Gabriela Di Longo, Guillermo Ortiz, Ana Ferraris and Laura Oxley (Uruguay).

II. PROCEEDINGS

The Secretary for Legal Affairs of the OAS, Jean Michel Arrighi, gave an opening statement celebrating the fact that the meeting was being held in person, with the possibility of remote participation, and highlighting the Committee's progress, particularly in the last three years.

Under the first item of the Agenda and Schedule prepared for this meeting (Annexes I and II), the Technical Secretariat presented a report that addressed the topics contained in the meeting's Agenda.

Under Agenda item 2, the Technical Secretariat informed the Committee of Experts that, prior to the start of the meeting, it had received and distributed to all delegations a verbal note from the Permanent Mission of Panama (SG/MESICIC/doc.639 /23) nominating Lead Expert Elsa Fernández as Chair of the Committee of Experts, as well as a verbal note from the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic (SG/MESICIC/doc.638/23) nominating Lead Expert Berenice Barinas as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Under Agenda item 3, the Committee considered the draft preliminary report of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. For consideration of this draft preliminary report, the Committee proceeded in accordance with the provisions of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure. Thus, the review subgroup presented on the content and scope of the draft preliminary report; followed by a presentation by the the country under review; and then the Committee considered this draft report, for which the observations and comments of the experts were provided, following the order of chapters and sections.

The Committee agreed to modifications, made the respective changes, and presented the revised version to the plenary for its consideration and final approval.

Under item 4 of the Agenda, the "Special Session: Corruption and Gender" was held in two parts. During the first part, representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe (GRECO), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Summits of the Americas Secretariat (OAS), EUROsociAL+, and Transparency International, shared developments in the areas of anti-corruption and gender. The electronic copies of these presentations that were delivered to the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC are included as annexes to these minutes (Annexes III and IV).

During the second part of this special session, the representatives of the States that had previously expressed their intention to make presentations on their developments in this area did so. These States were the following: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru and the United States of America. The presentations used during the special session, will be posted on [the Mechanism's web page](#) to ensure their continued dissemination. On account of its importance, the special session was

transmitted by webcast over the official OAS Facebook and YouTube accounts and the official MESICIC Twitter account.

Then, under item 5 of the Agenda, presentations on best practices were made by the representatives of the States that had previously sent the MESICIC Technical Secretariat the standard form with its corresponding information, according to the methodology for presentation of best practices adopted by the Committee. Best practices were shared by: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

In order to maximize the dissemination of the best practices presented, this session was transmitted by webcast over the official OAS Facebook and YouTube accounts and the official MESICIC Twitter account.

The forms that were previously sent to the MESICIC Technical Secretariat on the best practices presented at this meeting, together with their annexes and the presentations made, are to be published on [the Mechanism's web page](#), in accordance with the methodology adopted by the Committee.

Subsequently, under item 6 of the Agenda, there was discussion about the revised version of the "Proposal for indicators to prevent, detect, and reduce impunity related to the results regarding the protection of whistleblowers and witnesses of acts of corruption in criminal matters", prepared by the Technical Secretariat in accordance to the agreement reached at the 38th Meeting of the Committee of Experts held in September 2022. For these purposes, the notes that included observations and proposals by delegates of changes, submitted in advance, were considered in order, as well as notes in response to those observation and proposals by the Technical Secretariat, and decisions were made regarding them. After having given consideration to the document, the Committee agreed to the following:

1. To instruct the Technical Secretariat to prepare a revised and clean version of the document that reflects the decisions adopted by the Committee at this meeting, both in relation to its introductory part as well as the text of the indicators, including alignment, as appropriate, of the wording of the indicators in Part B (indicators related to the protection of witnesses) with the wording agreed upon for similar indicators in Part A (indicators related to the protection of whistleblowers).
2. The Technical Secretariat will send this revised version to the Lead Experts of the States on the Committee by no later than June 7, 2023.
3. The experts will have until July 7, 2023, to provide the Technical Secretariat with comments regarding the revision of the text of the indicators as per the decisions taken in that regard at this meeting.
4. The Technical Secretariat will, by no later than August 7, 2023, send the experts the revised version of the document that incorporates the observations received from them by the above deadline so the final revised version of the document can be taken up for consideration at the 40th Meeting of the Committee, in September 2023.

Under item 7 of the Agenda and in accordance with the provisions of Article 31 of the Rules of Procedure, the representatives of the States Party orally reported on measures their respective States had adopted between the 37th Meeting and the present one, in relation to the recommendations given by the Committee, and on other progress related to the implementation of the Convention during that

period. The digital copies received by the Technical Secretariat of these reports, drafted in the standard format approved by the Committee, will be published on the Mechanism's web page.

The Committee then addressed the final review of the draft country report of Uruguay, which, after some considerations, was approved by consensus. The approved text of the report is included as an annex to these minutes (Annex V).

The Committee then took up item 8 of the Agenda. In accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected by consensus the Lead Expert of Panama, Elsa Fernández, as Chairperson, and the Lead Expert of the Dominican Republic, Berenice Barinas, as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.

With respect to item 9 of the Agenda, “other business”:

1. The Technical Secretariat reported on the communication received from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the OAS on September 26, 2022, requesting postponement of its review, which was part of the fifth group of States whose draft report for the Sixth Round was scheduled to be considered at this meeting of the Committee. The Permanent Mission of Colombia stated that this request was due to the recent change of government, which entails an internal reorganization of the Secretariat for Transparency of the Office of the President of the Republic and of other national entities involved in this process. Thus, the Permanent Mission expressed Colombia's interest in postponing its review, if possible, to 2023.

In response to the request by the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the OAS regarding the scope of the requested postponement, after consultation with and approval by the Lead Expert of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, His Excellency Attorney General Grenville T. Williams, it was agreed that Colombia will take the spot occupied by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as part of the eighth group and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will take the place assigned to Colombia in the thirteen group of States to be reviewed in the current Sixth Round. Having been informed of this, the Committee expressed its agreement with the arrangement by which Colombia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines would switch places for the Sixth Round of review.

2. The Technical Secretariat reported on the financial situation of the Mechanism and, bearing in mind that its operations are financed by voluntary contributions by the States, thanked the United States, Panama, and Chile for their recent contributions, and invited the experts from the States to work with their governments to consider making contributions to ensure the Mechanism's financial sustainability and to build a sense of its shared ownership.

In this matter, following the suggestion of the Lead Expert of Guyana, the Hon. Gail Teixeira, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Government, it was agreed that the Technical Secretariat will send a letter to the Member States inviting them to contribute to the Mechanism.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Technical Secretariat read out these minutes, which the full Committee approved by consensus, together with all its annexes, which form an integral part of the same.

Washington, D.C., March 16, 2023

ANEXOS	
No.	Documento
I	Agenda of the Meeting (English)
II	Schedule of the Meeting (English)
III	Presentation by UNODC (English)
IV	Presentation by Transparency International (only available in Spanish)
V	Country Report on Uruguay (English)