



MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION
Fortieth Meeting of the Committee of Experts
September 11-14, 2023
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L.
SG/MESICIC/doc.651/23
14 September 2023
Original: Spanish

MINUTES OF THE FORTIETH 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 40th Meeting of the Committee was held from September 11 to 14, 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); Deborah Hafford, Omar Sosa, Yanina Ariotti (Argentina); Julia Susana Ríos Laguna, Paolo Garay Romero Catacora, Bayardo Martínez Villarroel, Boris Chura Zegarra (Bolivia); Mônica Bulhões e Silva, Renata Alves de Figueiredo, Natalia Camba Martins, Aduardo Zózimo de Andrade Figueira Neto, Edson Fábio Garutti Moreira, André Zaca Furquim, Rudyero Trento Alves, Embajador Benoni Belli, Carlos Guilherme Sampaio Fernandes, Larissa Ferreira da Silva (Brazil); Erin Cassidy, Cathy Hawara, Sahil Behal, Anne Ellefsen-Gauthier, Ay Felix, Michel Arcand (Canada); Daniella Caldana Fulss, Ariel Hurel Varas, Valeria Lübbert Álvarez, Julio Torres González, Jorge Norambuena Carrillo, María Jesús Rojas Vera, Mayra Johana Zambrano, Carolina Álvarez Gaete, Karina Elizabeth Ruiz B., Bernardo Navarrete Yáñez, Leandro Matías Buendía Valdivia (Chile); Andrés Idárraga Franco, Mauricio Pinzón Camargo, Roberth Nicolas Valencia Sierra, Maria Paula Vargas Rodriguez, Laura Liliana Orjuela Vargas, Sandra Lucía Mikan Venegas (Colombia); Embajadora Alejandra Solano Cabalceta, Embajadora Samy Araya Rojas, Lissy Dorado Vargas, Paola Madriz Pérez, Kimberly Sánchez Carrillo, Kennia Alvarado Villalobos, Natalia Krutko Saballos (Costa Rica); Berenice Barinas Ubiñas, Nahuel Burtokan, Ruth de los Santos, Mirna Ortiz Fernández (Dominican Republic); Gisela Herdoíza, Alembert Antonio Vera Rivera, Mirna Estacio Caicedo, María Isabel Vásquez Paredes, Ana Belén Cordero, Andrea Lizeth Castillo de la Torre, Ligia Xiomara Moncada Márquez, María Lorena Figueroa Acosta, Pamela Jael Játiva Tora, Toa Carolina Murgueytio Nuñez, Natalia Estefanía Endera Eraso, Juan Manuel Proaño Aguilar, Maribel Mareno Berlín, Nicole Stephanie Bonifaz López, Silvana Alexandra Sandoval Melandez (Ecuador); Karina Burgos de Olivares, Elmer Humberto Castro Hernández, Gerardo Arístides Márquez Reyes, Embajadora Wendy Acevedo, Carla Rivera (El Salvador); Oscar Miguel Dávila Mejicanos, Gonzalo Vásquez, Mauricio Benard, Andrea Domenika Fernández Rodríguez (Guatemala); Gail Teixeira (Guyana); Hans Jacques

Ludwig, Winnie Hugo Gabriel (Haiti); José Juan Pineda Varela, Jorge Gustavo Medina (Honduras); Marlene Malahoo Forte, Michelle Walker, Sherise Gayle, Shelly-Ann J. Thompson (Jamaica); Valentina Valdez Jasso, Mariana Yáñez López, Alfredo Páez Herrera, Mónica Montano (Mexico); Elsa Fernández, Astrid González, Leticia Martínez, Edwin Juárez, Agustín Almario (Panama); Cecilia Perez Rivas (Paraguay); Sara Evelyn Farfán Cuba, Carlos Villena Changanaqui, Jorge Portocarrero Salcedo (Peru); Simone Bullen Thompson, Tashna Powell Williams, Kiandre Weeks (Saint Kitts and Nevis); Tina Louison (Saint Lucia); Rosilda Jeroe, Rashna Babolall (Suriname); Kenrah Newry (The Bahamas); Athea Jones, Joshua Singh (Trinidad and Tobago); Kellen McClure, Teddi Shihadeh-Bouffard, Nikhita Godbole, Bianca Blanchard, Amanda Hickman, April Snedeker, Tracyanne Saunders, Matthew Younger, Thomas Lersten (United States of America); and Gabriela di Longo (Uruguay).

II. PROCEEDINGS

The Secretary for Legal Affairs of the OAS, Jean Michel Arrighi, gave an opening statement to start the meeting.

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 item 2 on the agenda, the Committee considered, in order, the preliminary draft country reports of Dominican Republic, Canada, and The Bahamas.

In reviewing the preliminary draft country reports, the Committee proceeded in accordance with Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure. Thus, in each case, the review subgroup presented the content and scope of its preliminary draft report; then, the State Party under review made a brief statement in regard to the draft report; and, finally, the Committee examined the corresponding draft report, with the experts offering observations and comments on the chapters and sections in order.

For each draft report it examined, the Committee agreed on modifications, and it gave instructions for the corresponding changes to be made and for the revised versions to be submitted to the plenary for consideration and final approval.

Under item 3 of the Agenda, the "Special Session: Prevention and Management of Conflict of Interests" was held in two parts. During the first part, representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Bank, Council of Europe, the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), shared developments in relation to the prevention and management of conflict of interests. 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: Belize, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, 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.

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.

Then, in accordance with item 4 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, Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago.

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.

Then, under item 5 on the agenda, the meeting discussed the revised version of the “Proposed Indicators to Prevent, Detect, and Reduce Impunity related to results in the Protection of Whistleblowers and Witnesses of Acts of Corruption in Criminal Matters,” which had been prepared by the Technical Secretariat to include the agreements reached in March 2023 at the thirty-ninth meeting of the Committee of Experts. The notes containing the observations and proposed changes submitted in advance by the delegations were considered, in sequential order, and decisions were adopted with respect to them.

In connection with this undertaking, the Committee adopted the following agreements:

1. To request that the Technical Secretariat prepare a revised version that includes the agreements reached on the text examined at this meeting up to proposed indicator No. 7; that it adjust the numbering of the notes starting with that indicator; and that it convey the revised version to the Committee's members sufficiently in advance of its forty-first meeting.
2. To consider that revised version, following the order of the notes, starting with proposed indicator No. 8, at its forty-first meeting.

The Committee then turned its attention to the final review of the draft country reports on the Dominican Republic, Canada, and The Bahamas; after comments were made on each of them, they were approved by consensus. The approved texts of the country reports are included as annexes to these minutes (Annexes V, VI and VII).

Under agenda item 6, “Other matters”:

1. The expert from Brazil requested that, at future meetings, the final versions of the draft country reports for consideration be distributed earlier. She also acknowledged and expressed her gratitude for the Portuguese interpretation services available at this meeting, and she noted the difficulties she had experienced in finding published versions of the presentations made at the special sessions held within the framework of the Committee's meetings.

2. The expert from Chile acknowledged and thanked the Chair's excellent leadership of the meeting, as well as the work carried out by the Technical Secretariat. With regard to the presentations on best practices, he also suggested that the states should consider sending a video in advance of the meeting, regardless of whether or not the expert responsible for the presentation would be in attendance at the meeting itself.
3. The expert from the United States reminded all the participants that his country was to host the forthcoming Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on December 11 to 15 of this year in Atlanta, Georgia. Accordingly, he reiterated the invitation for the MESISIC States Parties to attend the conference and made himself available to provide any information they might require from the host state in connection with the event.
4. The expert from Belize thanked the Chair and the Technical Secretariat for their work at the meeting and suggested that in future, consideration could be given to the possibility of presenting the good practices at working lunches.
5. The expert from El Salvador thanked the Chair, the Technical Secretariat, and the interpreting teams for their work.
6. The expert from the Dominican Republic, as the representative of a state that was reviewed at this meeting, thanked the Committee's Chair and Technical Secretariat. She also thanked the experts from the member states of the Dominican Republic's review subgroup and the experts from the other member states for their consideration of her country's draft report.
7. The expert from Canada joined in thanking the Chair and the Technical Secretariat, as well as the Committee for its consideration of the report on Canada adopted at this meeting and the contributions made in relation to it.
8. The expert from Guatemala also took the floor to thank the Chair, the Technical Secretariat, and the Committee as a whole for all the work carried out during this meeting of the Committee.
9. The expert from Ecuador, who was attending a meeting of the Committee for the first time, congratulated the Technical Secretariat for its work and acknowledged the usefulness of the topics examined by the Committee as a contribution to their workplace responsibilities.
10. The expert from Costa Rica joined the previous experts in acknowledging the work of the Technical Secretariat, the members of the draft country report preliminary review subgroups, and the representatives of the states reviewed at the meeting; she also made particular reference to the work of the Committee's Chair.
11. The expert from the Plurinational State of Bolivia also thanked the Chair and the Technical Secretariat and, in particular, expressed his gratitude for the good practices shared at the meeting.
12. The Chair expressed her gratitude for the recognition for her work and stressed that the Committee was a venue for growth, which had helped her in drawing up a road map for the anticorruption responsibilities she has in her state. She also thanked the Technical Secretariat

for its support and underscored the importance of continuing to publicize the Committee's work and the usefulness to Panama of all the contributions made to this mechanism.

13. The expert from Suriname asked how further information could be obtained on the best practices presented; in response, she was provided with that information.

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., September 14, 2023

ANNEXES	
No.	Document
I	Agenda of the Meeting (English)
II	Schedule of the Meeting (English)
III	Presentation of the <i>Toolkit for managing conflict of interest in the public service</i> (English)
IV	Presentation by UNODC (only available in Spanish)
V	Country Report on Dominican Republic (English)
VI	Country Report on Canada (English)
VII	Country Report on The Bahamas (English)