

MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION
Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Committee of Experts
March 8 – 11, 2021
Washington, D.C.

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MINUTES
OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH 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 Sixth 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 Thirty-Fifth Meeting was held—online, on account of the COVID-19 pandemic—from March 8 to 11, 2021.

This meeting was attended by the following representatives of the States Parties: Vanessa Moe (Antigua and Barbuda); Luis Villanueva, Déborah Hafford, Omar Sosa, Natalia Torres, Natalia Bistolfi, María Fernanda Terán, Natalia Pereyra, Yanina Ariotti (Argentina); Stacy Martinez (Belize); Julia Susana Rios Laguna (Bolivia); Elizabeth Cristina Marques Cosmo, Mônica Bulhões e Silva, Thaísa Pires de Faria, Leandro Antunes Mariosi, Socorro Janaína Maximiano Leonardo, Vitor Veloso Barros e Santos, Edson Fábio Garutti Moreira, Tony Gean Barbosa de Castro, Anamara Osório Silva, Marcelo Ribeiro de Oliveira, Luiz Felipe Vilela Pereira, Pedro da Silveira Montenegro, José Paulo Julieti Barbiere (Brazil); Erin Cassidy, Marie-Josée Gingras (Canada); Eugenio Rebolledo Suazo, Valentina Acharán Jacou, Yelica Lusic Nadal, Mayra Johana Zambrano, Julio Torres Gonzalez, Lya Cabello Abdala, Ricardo Miranda Zúñiga, Jorge Norambuena Carrillo, Roberto Villegas, Jorge Bermúdez Soto (Chile); Camilo Jaimes Poveda, Embajador Alejandro Ordoñez Maldonado, Gustavo Humberto Paredes Rojas, Catalina Pimienta, Luis Felipe Paredes, José Andrés O'Meara Riveira (Colombia); Miguel H. Cortés Chaves, Lissy Dorado Vargas, Kimberly Sánchez Carrillo (Costa Rica); Edison Pena, Rosa Elba Cordero, Berenice Barinas Urbina (Dominican Republic); Nicolás José Issa Wagner, Ernesto Emilio Varas Valdéz, Embajador Carlos Alberto Játiva Naranjo, Sandra Belen Sisalema Villalba, Paola Landeta, María José Vargas Cevallos, María Quelal, Carla Romero Almeida, Christian Salvador, Edison Melo (Ecuador); Ana María Corleto, Elmer Castro, Guillermo Escobar, José Ángel Pérez Chacón (El Salvador); Oscar Miguel Dávila Mejicanos, Jeimy Nairobi Gómez Córdova, Carlos Bernardo Muñoz, Mauricio Benard, Andrea Rabanales (Guatemala); Gail Teixeira, Chevy Devonish, John Chester-Inniss (Guyana); Hans Jacques Ludwig Joseph, Yvlore Pigeot, Ronald Mathurin (Haiti); Roy Pineda Castro, Jorge Medina, Melissa Paz (Honduras); Marlene Aldred, Michelle Walker, Stephanie Forte, Maurice Barrett (Jamaica); Dálida C. Acosta Pimentel, Valentina Vélez (Mexico); Iván Lara, Hernaldo Chamorro (Nicaragua); Elsa Fernández Aguilar, Harry Pinto (Panama); María Soledad Machuca Vidal, Flabio López, David Gómez, Marica López, Luis Carlos Bernino Díaz de Bedoya, Hugo Centurión, Marco Aurelio González, Aldo

Rodríguez, José Agustín Delmás Aguilar, María Mercedes Vera, Manuel Doldán Breuer, Victoria Acuña, Miguel Ángel Romero, Desiree Montero, Federico Hetter Garay, Marcia López Centurión, René Fernández Bobadilla (Paraguay); Eloy Alberto Munive Pariona, Gerald Pajuelo Ponce, Carlos Villena Changanaqui, Virna Ruiz, Alison Urquizo Olazabal, Yuriko Aguirre Chaupin (Peru); Julian Alfred, Kozel Creese, Juliet Mallet-Phillip (Saint Lucia); Sieglen Aviankoi, Rashna Babolall Inno, Juanita Cleopatra Santusha Lont (Suriname); Ian Rampersad (Trinidad and Tobago); Kellen McClure, Teddi Shihadeh-Bouffard, Arianna Barcham, Erin White, April Snedeker, Caitlin Kennel, Amanda Hickman, Chandana Ravindranath, Andrew Gentin, Linda Miller (United States); María Susana Signorino Barbat (Uruguay); José Ignacio Hernández and Neiza Pineda (Venezuela).

II. PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Jean Michel Arrighi, OAS Secretary for Legal Affairs, gave an opening address at the meeting's inaugural session.

Pursuant to the first item on the agenda and schedule for this meeting (Annexes I and II), the Technical Secretariat presented a report on the agenda and on MESICIC's work.

Under agenda item 2, the Lead Experts of Brazil, Mexico and Paraguay proposed the reelection of Miguel Cortés, Chair and Lead Expert of Costa Rica, and of Stacy Martínez, Vice Chair and Alternate Expert of Belize. However, the expert from Belize took the floor to note her thanks for the nomination and to indicate that unfortunately she could not accept, as this was the last Committee meeting she would be attending as a representative of her State. Accordingly, the Chair set a deadline of Wednesday, March 10, for the presentation of new nominations, pursuant to which, at the end of the meeting on March 10, Mexico presented the candidacy of Dálida Acosta Pimentel, its Lead Expert, to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee.

Under agenda item 3, the Committee considered, in order, the preliminary draft country reports for Paraguay and Peru.

The Committee proceeded to review the preliminary draft country reports in accordance with Article 25 of the 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 reviewed, the Committee agreed on modifications, and provided instructions for the corresponding changes to be made and for the revised versions to be submitted to the plenary for consideration and final approval.

Then, in compliance with agenda item 4, voluntary presentations on best practices were given by the representatives of those States that had previously submitted the standard forms with the relevant information to the MESICIC Technical Secretariat, in keeping with the methodology for the presentation of best practices adopted by the Committee. Best practices were shared by Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and Peru.

In order to maximize the dissemination of the best practices presented, new information and communication technologies were used to broadcast the session by webcast over the official OAS Facebook and YouTube accounts and the official MESICIC Twitter account.

The electronic versions of 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 PowerPoint presentations used, will be published on [the Mechanism's web page](#), in accordance with the methodology adopted by the Committee.

In keeping with agenda item 5, the special session on *Preventing and Tackling Corruption during the Pandemic: Experiences, Developments, and Lessons Learned* was held. During that session, the representatives of those States that had previously submitted to the Technical Secretariat the annex to the methodology related to this special session gave presentations on their experiences, developments, and lessons learned in preventing and combating corruption in areas covered by the Convention during the pandemic.

Presentations were given at this special session by Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay.

The electronic versions of the forms annexed to the methodology submitted by these States, together with the PowerPoint presentations used during the special session, will be posted on [the Mechanism's web page](#) to ensure their continued dissemination. Likewise, the document annexed to the methodology by Panama will be published. Although it was unable to make the presentation at the meeting, it had sent it to the MESICIC Technical Secretariat in advance of the special session.

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 agenda item 6, the Technical Secretariat presented the proposed Methodology for Considering the System of Indicators to Prevent, Detect, and Eradicate Impunity for Acts of Corruption, prepared in response to the mandates received from both the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of MESICIC States Parties and the Eighth Summit of the Americas. After due consideration, the Committee decided to adopt the methodology (Annex III).

In accordance with that methodology, the Committee instructed the Technical Secretariat to develop the proposal set out in the first phase thereof, taking into account the criteria contained therein, i.e., the proposal for indicators on results relating to acts of corruption. To that end, the procedure established in the methodology will be followed, which provides that:

1. Based on the criteria described in the methodology for this first phase, the Technical Secretariat will prepare the proposal for indicators on the results of acts of corruption and will send it to the States' Lead Experts three (3) months prior to the Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Committee, which is to be held in September 2021.
2. The States, through their Lead Experts to the Committee, will send the Technical Secretariat their comments and proposals on the text of the proposed indicators developed by the Technical Secretariat no later than two (2) months prior to the Committee's Thirty-Sixth Meeting.
3. The Technical Secretariat will incorporate the comments and proposals received from the States' Lead Experts into a revised version, which it will convey to the members of the Committee one (1) month in advance of the Committee's Thirty-Sixth Meeting.

4. Consideration of the revised version will be included on the draft agenda of the Committee's Thirty-Sixth Meeting.

Next, under agenda item 7 and in accordance with the provisions of Article 31 of the Rules of Procedure, the States Parties' representatives gave verbal reports on the measures that their States had adopted since the Thirty-Fourth Meeting with respect to the recommendations made to them by the Committee, as well as on other progress relating to the implementation of the Convention during that period.

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

The Committee then undertook its final review of the draft country reports on Paraguay and Peru, which, following considerations made in relation to each, were adopted by consensus. The approved texts of the country reports are included as annexes to these minutes (Annexes IV and V).

The Committee then addressed agenda item 8. In accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected, by consensus, Miguel Cortés to serve as its Chair and Dálida Acosta Pimentel to serve as its Vice Chair.





Finally, under agenda item 9, "Other business":

- a) The Committee examined the reasons why Bolivia and Ecuador were unable to respond to their questionnaires by the scheduled deadlines and resolved that they would be reviewed, in that order, following the end of the review of the final group of countries in the Sixth Round.

The Committee also authorized the Technical Secretariat to make the necessary modifications to both the sequence and the timetable adopted for the Sixth Round in order to reflect this change, and to prepare and distribute a revised version of both documents.
- b) The delegation of Brazil reaffirmed its interest and willingness, in coordination with the Technical Secretariat, to organize the Conference of MESICIC States Parties when sanitary conditions permit, regarding which the States will be informed in due course.
- c) The delegation of Chile invited the other delegations to attend the webinar on "IT Innovation: oversight in pandemic times," to be held on March 25 at 10:00 a.m. (Santiago time). Information regarding this event can be found on the web at <http://bit.ly/3bvMnEF>.
- d) In response to proposals made by the delegations of Brazil and Chile, the Committee asked that the minutes record its congratulations to the MESICIC Technical Secretariat for the high quality of its work and its great appreciation of the support it provides the Committee, which could be seen in the success of this meeting.
- e) The delegation of Chile also requested that the use of communication and information technologies be considered for future meetings, in light of both budgetary constraints and the situation arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- f) The delegation of Peru called for the joining of efforts in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Corruption.

Before ending the meeting, the Technical Secretariat read out these minutes, which were then unanimously approved by the plenary of the Committee, together with all the annexes that form an integral part thereof.

Washington, D.C., March 11, 2021

APPENDIX		
No.	Title	Link
I	Agenda of the Meeting	
II	Schedule of the Meeting	
III	Methodology for Considering the System of Indicators to Prevent, Detect, and Eradicate Impunity for Acts of Corruption	
IV	Report on Paraguay	
V	Report on Peru	