

MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION  
Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Committee of Experts  
March 14 – 17, 2022  
Washington, D.C.

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**MINUTES**  
**OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH 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-Seventh Meeting was held—online, on account of the COVID-19 pandemic—from March 14 to 17, 2022.

This meeting was attended by the following representatives of the States Parties: Vanessa Moe (Antigua and Barbuda); Luis Villanueva, Déborah Hafford, Omar Sosa (Argentina); Henry Charles Usher, Rolando Zetina (Belize); Julia Susana Ríos Laguna, Bayardo Martínez Villarroel, Vadín Rodolfo Serrano Miranda, Paula Andrea Segovia Camargo, Nora Gemio Zabala (Bolivia); Elizabeth Cristina Marques Cosmo, Mônica Bulhões e Silva, Leandro Antunes Mariosi, Pedro da Silveira Montenegro, Márcio Rebouças, Carlos Guilherme Sampaio Fernandes, Socorro Janaína Maximiano Leonardo, Priscila Santos Campelo Macorin, Anamara Osório Silva, Marcelo Ribeiro de Oliveira, Fabiano Emídio de Lucena (Brazil); Erin Cassidy, Marie-Josée Gingras (Canada); Eugenio Rebolledo Suazo, Valentina Acharán Jacou, Mariia Isabel Velasco Galaz, Daniela Santana Silva, Mayra Zambrano, Nayareth Calfulaf Barrueto, Yelica Lusic Nadal, Julio Torres Gonzalez, Lya Cabello Abdala, Jorge Luis Norambuena Carrillo, Angelina Bernal Zúñiga, Carolina Álvarez Gaete (Chile); Beatriz Elena Londoño Patiño, Armando José Navarro Burgos, Embajador Alejandro Ordoñez Maldonado, Gustavo Humberto Paredes Rojas (Colombia); Miguel H. Cortés Chaves, Lissy Dorado Vargas, Kimberly Sánchez Carrillo (Costa Rica); Berenice Barinas Ubiñas, Nael Bourtokan, Rosa Elba Cordero (Dominican Republic); Luis Fernando Verdesoto Custode, Patricio Lloret Cordero, Sandra Sisalema (Ecuador); Karina Guadalupe Burdos de Olivares, Elmer Humberto Castro Hernández, Gerardo Aristides Márquez Reyes, Embajador Agustín Vasquez, Carla Esperanza Rivera (El Salvador); Robert Branch (Grenada); Oscar Miguel Dávila Mejicanos, Carmen María Marroquín Orellana, Mauricio Benard (Guatemala); Gail Teixeira (Guyana); Hans Jacques Ludwig Joseph, Ronald Mathurin (Haiti); Roy Pineda Castro, Jorge Medina, Melissa Paz (Honduras); Marlene Aldred, Michelle Walker, Sherise Gayle (Jamaica); Dálida C. Acosta Pimentel, Embajadora Elena Baños Rivas, Luis Enrique Pereda Trejo, Martín Muñoz-Ledo, Graciela Rock, Martha C. Vázquez Vázquez, Claudia Elizabeth Arriaga Sánchez (Mexico); Elsa Fernández Aguilar, Tania Vásquez, Astrid González, Harry Pinto (Panama); María Soledad Machuca Vidal (Paraguay); Eloy Alberto Munive Pariona, Carlos Augusto Villena Changanaquí, Yuriko Maribel Aguirre Chaupin (Peru); Juliana

Alfred, Kozel Creese (Saint Lucia); Sieglien Aviankoi, Juanita Lont, Rashna Babolall, Valery Pique (Suriname); Ian Rampersad (Trinidad and Tobago); Kellen McClure, Teddi Shihadeh-Bouffard, Nikhita Godbole, Margaret Ramsey, April Snedeker, Michael Wolf, Hermes Grullon, Sama Habib (United States); María Susana Signorino, Valeria Martínez (Uruguay); José Ignacio Hernández, and Neiza Pineda (Venezuela).

## II. PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to Article 34(b) of the Rules of Procedure and within the deadline established in the schedule for the Sixth Round, the Committee received documents from four civil society organizations. These organizations are the "Comisión para el Seguimiento del Cumplimiento de la Convención Interamericana contra la Corrupción" (CICC) [Commission for Monitoring Compliance with the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption] of Argentina, the "Foro de Estudios sobre la Administración de Justicia" (FORES) [Forum on Administration of Justice Studies] of Argentina, "Poder Ciudadano" [Citizen Power] of Argentina, and the "Asociación para una Sociedad más Justa" (ASJ) [Association for a More Just Society] of Honduras.

In light of the above and the provisions of Article 35 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, before beginning the formal meeting, the experts of the MESICIC member states met informally with representatives of the CICC, FORES, and ASJ.

Following the informal meeting with civil society organizations from Argentina and Honduras, the formal meeting of the Committee began, with a speech by the Secretary for the OAS Secretariat for Legal Affairs, Jean Michel Arrighi.

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 the work of the MESICIC.

In response to item 2 on the agenda, the Expert from Costa Rica, Lissy Dorado Vargas, proposed electing the Lead Expert of Panama, Elsa Fernández, as Chair of the Committee of Experts and electing the Lead Expert of Paraguay, María Soledad Machuca Vidal, as Vice-Chair. The Chair then set a deadline of Tuesday, March 15 for the submission of new candidacies.

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

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 Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, 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, are to be published on [the Mechanism's web page](#), in accordance with the methodology adopted by the Committee. Likewise, although Uruguay was unable to make a presentation during the meeting, the document annexed to the methodology and the PowerPoint presentation prepared by Uruguay will be published as well, as it was sent to the MESICIC Technical Secretariat in advance of the special session.

In accordance with item 5 of the agenda, the "Special Session" was held on: "Experiences, developments, and lessons learned regarding the protection of public officials and private citizens who, in good faith, report acts of corruption." There were two parts to this special session. During the "Panel on international anti-corruption mechanisms and whistleblower protection," representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe (GRECO), and the Technical Secretariat of MESICIC, shared information regarding developments by these international anti-corruption mechanisms in the area of whistleblower protection. The electronic copies of these presentations that were provided to the MESICIC Technical Secretariat are included as an annex to these minutes (annex III, IV, V y VI).

During the second part of this special session, the representatives of the States that had previously submitted the form attached to the methodology for this special session to the Technical Secretariat, presented their experiences, developments, and lessons learned. Presentations were given by Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, 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, although Colombia was unable to make a presentation during the meeting, the document annexed to the methodology by Colombia will be published, as well, as it was sent 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.

Subsequently, under item 6 on the agenda, the meeting considered the "*Proposed Indicators to Prevent, Detect, and Eradicate Impunity for Acts of Corruption with regard to the Results of their Criminal Investigation, Prosecution, Adjudication, and Sentencing*," as prepared by the Technical Secretariat, in accordance with the agreement reached at the Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Committee of Experts held in September 2021. To that end, participants considered each of the notes that included the proposals by the Technical Secretariat that took into account the observations and proposals submitted in advance by the delegations, and a number of decisions were taken. Thus, the Committee considered and adopted decisions on the content and wording of the document up to and including

Section C: *"Indicators to determine the results of actions in relation to the performance of functions in connection to the adjudication and sentencing of acts of corruption."*

In light of the above, the Committee agreed:

1. That the Technical Secretariat would incorporate into a single version the *"indicators to prevent, detect, and eradicate impunity for acts of corruption with regard to the results of their criminal investigation, prosecution, adjudication, and sentencing,"* which includes the texts approved at both the Thirty-Sixth and the Thirty-Seventh Meetings of the Committee of Experts. (Annex VII).
2. That, in accordance with the *"Methodology for considering the system of indicators to prevent, detect, and eradicate impunity in acts of corruption"* (document OEA/Ser.L/SG/MESICIC/doc.581/21 rev.1 corr.1), adopted at the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Committee of Experts, and, in particular, in accordance with the second phase provided for in said methodology, the Technical Secretariat shall prepare the *"Proposed indicators for the protection of victims, whistleblowers, witnesses, and other parties to the proceedings"* for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee then undertook its final review of the draft country reports on Argentina and Honduras, 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 VIII and IX).

Next, under agenda item 7 and in accordance with the provisions of Article 31 of the Rules of Procedure, the representatives of the States Parties gave verbal reports on the measures that their States had adopted since the Thirty-Fifth 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, prepared in the standard format approved by the Committee, will be posted on the Mechanism's web page.

The Committee then turned to item 8 on the agenda. In accordance with Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure, by consensus, the Committee elected Elsa Fernández, Lead Expert of Panama as Chair, and María Soledad Machuca Vidal, Lead Expert of Paraguay, as Vice Chair.









Under agenda item 9, "Other business":

- a) The U.S. delegation proposed:
  - a. That, within the framework of the next meeting of the Committee, the Technical Secretariat should report on the financial situation of the MESICIC.
  - b. That the States may submit to the Technical Secretariat, in advance of the plenary meeting of the Committee, observations regarding any corrections to the translation of terms in the draft country reports that may arise from the meeting between the country under review, the members of the respective review subgroups, and the Technical Secretariat, which is held prior to the plenary meeting of the Committee. This is so that those observations can be taken into account to facilitate more expeditious consideration of the draft country reports at the plenary meeting of the Committee.

- b) The delegation of Chile proposed to place on record in these minutes recognition of the work carried out by the Chair of the Committee and Lead Expert of Costa Rica, Miguel Cortés, as well as the Vice-Chair and Lead Expert of Mexico, Dálida Acosta Pimentel.

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 17, 2022

<b>APPENDIX</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>I</b>	Agenda of the Meeting	
<b>II</b>	Schedule of the Meeting	
<b>III</b>	UNODC Presentation	
<b>IV</b>	OECD Presentation	
<b>V</b>	GRECO Presentation	
<b>VI</b>	MESICIC Presentation	
<b>VII</b>	Indicators for preventing, detecting, and reducing impunity in acts of corruption related to the results of their investigation, prosecution, trial and punishment	
<b>VIII</b>	Report on Argentina	
<b>IX</b>	Report on Honduras	