



MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION
Forty-First Meeting of the Committee of Experts
March 11-14 2024
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L.
SG/MESICIC/doc.663/24
14 March 2024
Original: Spanish

**MINUTES OF THE FORTY-FIRST 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 41st Meeting of the Committee was held from March 11 to 14, 2024.

This in-person meeting was held at the OAS headquarters in Washington DC, United States.

This meeting was attended by the following representatives of the States Parties: Vanessa Moe (Antigua and Barbuda); Deborah Hafford (Argentina); Cesar E. Ross (Belize); Mônica Bulhões e Silva, Rafael Melo Carneiro, Rafael Naves Carvalho, Rafael Galera, Daniel Mostardeiro Cola (Brazil); Maude Kostine; Erin Cassidy (Canada); Jorge Norambuena Carrillo, María Jesús Rojas Vera, Mayra Johana Zambrano, Macarena Andrea Martínez, Roberto Villegas Román (Chile); Sandra Lucía Mikan Venegas (Colombia); Embajadora Alejandra Solano Cabalceta, Embajadora Samy Araya Rojas (Corta Rica); Embajadora Mayerlyn Cordero, Berenice Barinas Ubiñas, Radhafil Rodríguez (Dominican Republic); José Julio Neira Hanze (Ecuador); Embajadora Wendy Acevedo Castillo, Embajador Kennedy Obed, Carla Rivera Sánchez (El Salvador); Santiago Paloma Vila, Embajador Francisco Villagrán, Gonzalo Vásquez Orozco, María Alejandra Erazo, Mauricio Benard, Carlos Bautista (Guatemala); Gail Teixeira, Joann Bond, Embajador Samuel Hinds (Guyana); Melissa Sue Paz (Honduras); Michelle Walker, Sherise Gayle, Attilah Beckford (Jamaica); Embajadora Luz Elena Baños Rivas, Mónica Montano Bermudez (Mexico); Elsa Fernández, Liza Guevara (Panama); Luis Jeronimo Sann Irun (Paraguay); José Roberto Rodríguez Bustamante (Peru); Juliana Alfred (Saint Lucia); Kenrah Newry (The Bahamas); Ian Rampersad (Trinidad and Tobago); Kellen McClure, Teddi Shihadeh-Bouffard, Bianca Blanchard, Nicola Marcucci, Thomas E. Lersten, Rachel Owen, Hannah Odio, Tracyanne Saunders, Kalli Beck, Amy Granger, Linda Otani McKinney, David Fuhr, Jacqueline O'Reilly, Estee Levine, Patrick Foley, Charles Cain, Young Lee, Samuel Barnett, Wazirah Allen, Matthew Greiner, Charles Cain, Patrick Foley, Jacqueline O'Reilly (United States of America); Gabriela di Longo Lorenzo y Javier Rodríguez (Uruguay).

II. PROCEEDINGS

To start the meeting, Elsa Fernández, Chair of the Committee and lead expert of Panama, and Jorge García González, Director of the Department of Legal Cooperation of the OAS Secretariat for Legal Affairs, shared some opening and welcoming remarks.

Under the first item on the agenda and schedule (Annexes I and II), the Technical Secretariat informed the meeting of the topics on its agenda.

Under the second item on the agenda, the Technical Secretariat informed the Committee of Experts that prior to the start of the meeting, it had received and distributed to all the delegations a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic (SG/MESICIC/doc.662/24) presenting the candidacy of that State's lead expert, Berenice Barinas Ubiñas, to serve as Chair of the Committee of Experts. The Chair then set a deadline of the afternoon of Tuesday, March 12, for the submission of additional candidacies for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. At the end of the meeting on Tuesday, March 12, the Technical Secretariat reported that the lead expert of Trinidad and Tobago, Ian Rampersad, had presented his candidacy to serve as the Committee's Vice Chair.

Under item 3 on the agenda, the Committee considered, in order, the preliminary draft country reports on the United States, Guyana, and Jamaica.

The consideration of those countries' draft preliminary reports proceeded in accordance with the provisions of 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 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.

Item 4 on the agenda involved the holding of the "Special session: Identifying beneficial owners for preventing corruption." The special session comprised two parts. During the first, representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, Transparency International, and the Tax Justice Network shared developments in the area of beneficial ownership transparency as a tool to prevent and combat corruption. Electronic copies of the presentations that were submitted to the MESICIC Technical Secretariat are included in the annexes to these minutes (Annexes III, IV and V).

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, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica and Panama. 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, in accordance with 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: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa

Rica, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Jamaica, Panama, Paragua, Suriname 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 6 on the agenda, the Committee 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," prepared by the Technical Secretariat as agreed at the fortieth meeting of the Committee of Experts in September 2023. To that end, the meeting examined, in order, the notes containing the observations and proposed changes sent in advance by the delegations, and decisions were adopted with respect to them up to indicator 25.

In connection with this task, the Committee agreed the following:

1. To ask the Technical Secretariat to prepare a revised version incorporating the agreements reached on the text examined at the present meeting up to proposed indicator 25, to adjust the numbering of the notes starting with indicator 25, and to send that revised version to the Committee members sufficiently in advance of the Committee's forty-second meeting.
2. To consider that revised version, following the order of the corresponding notes and starting with proposed indicator 26, at its forty-second meeting.

Under item 7 on the agenda 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 their respective States had adopted, since the thirty-ninth meeting, in relation to the recommendations made by the Committee, as well as on other progress related 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 addressed the final review of the draft country reports on the United States, Guyana, and Jamaica, which were approved by consensus after comments were made regarding each of them. The approved texts of those country reports are included in the annexes to these minutes (Annexes VI, VII and VIII).

The Committee then addressed agenda item 8. In keeping with the terms of Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected, by consensus, the Lead Expert of the Dominican Republic, Berenice Barinas Ubiñas, as its Chair, and the Lead Expert of Trinidad and Tobago, Ian Rampersad, as its Vice Chair.

Under agenda item 9, "Other matters":

1. The Technical Secretariat reported that it had received note verbale OEA-M4-NV-62-2024 from the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the OAS in which, at the request of the National Commission against Corruption, it asked that the review of the State be postponed;

in light of that request, it had decided that the State of Guatemala would be reviewed in this Sixth Round as part of the last (thirteenth) group.

The Committee therefore authorized the Technical Secretariat to make the corresponding modifications, both in the sequence and in the schedule adopted for the Sixth Round, in order to reflect that decision, and to prepare and distribute revised versions of both documents.

2. The expert from Brazil thanked the Committee's outgoing Chair, Elsa Fernández. She also expressed her country's availability for Brazil's review process to be conducted as part of the Sixth Round.
3. The expert from Argentina congratulated the Committee's new Chair and Vice Chair, thanked the Technical Secretariat for its efforts, and noted the increased participation of women on the Committee as a major step forward for the process and this mechanism. In addition, she proposed that consideration be given to the possibility of providing the experts with some form of training and updating in relation to the mechanism, given the ongoing process of change faced. Finally, she stressed the importance of continuing to strengthen synergies with other anticorruption mechanisms.
4. The expert from the Dominican Republic thanked the expert from Panama, Elsa Fernández, for her services to the Committee as its Chair. She also thanked the members for their support for her election as the Committee's new Chair.
5. The expert from Panama and Chair of the Committee thanked everyone and the Technical Secretariat for the experiences they had shared with Panama and with her in particular, and she expressed her gratitude for having been allowed to serve as the Committee's Chair. She also thanked the Vice Chair and expert from the Dominican Republic for her support in this growth process and congratulated her on her election as the new Chair of the Committee, along with the Committee's new Vice Chair.
6. The expert from the Dominican Republic thanked the Technical Secretariat for all the work carried out to ensure this meeting's success.
7. The expert from Trinidad and Tobago thanked the Chair and the Technical Secretariat for their excellent work, and the Committee's members for electing him Vice Chair.

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.

ANNEXES	
No.	Document
I	Meeting agenda (English)
II	Meeting schedule (English)
III	Presentation UNODC (Only available in Spanish)
IV	Presentation Inter-American Development Bank (Only available in Spanish)
V	Presentation Tax Justice Network (Only available in English)
VI	United States of America Report (English)
VII	Guyana Report (English)
VIII	Jamaica Report (English)