

MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

OEA/Ser.L/XXIII.2.2.
MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.6/06
21 November 2006
Original: Spanish

Second Meeting of the Conference of States Parties
November 20-21, 2006
Washington, D.C.

**MINUTES
OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE MESICIC**

I. Background

Pursuant to provision 5 of the Document of Buenos Aires and the Rules of Procedure, the Second Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the Mechanism for Follow-up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption – MESICIC took place at OAS Headquarters in Washington, D.C., United States, on November 20 and 21, 2006.

In addition to the provisions of the Document of Buenos Aires, a particularly important element in the background to this Meeting was OAS General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2219 (XXXVI-O/06), “Follow-up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and its Program for Cooperation,” and especially its operative paragraph 8, which recommended that the Second Meeting of States Parties to the MESICIC “*consider, review, update, and supplement, insofar as it considers this appropriate, the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption, adopted by resolution AG/RES. 1477 (XXVII-O/97), and present its recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Permanent Council, for formal adoption at its thirty-seventh regular session; and to request the General Secretariat to draft a basic proposal for that purpose.*”

The Meeting also took into account the work done and agreements reached during the two preparatory meetings for this Second Meeting, which were held at OAS headquarters on September 22 and October 16, 2006.

The Meeting had at its disposal the documents listed in document MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.1/06 ([Appendix 1](#)).

II. Proceedings

The Chair of the Conference and Permanent Representative of Brazil to the OAS, Ambassador Osmar Chohfi, opened the meeting with a brief summary of its background and objectives. He then offered the floor to the Secretary General of the OAS, Dr. José Miguel Insulza, who gave a presentation ([Appendix 2](#)).

During this same opening session, the OAS Secretary General presented a certificate of appreciation to Ms. Karla Sofía Hernández Monge, a student at the Don Bosco University in El Salvador who won the public competition regarding the adoption of the official logo for 2006: “Inter-American Year of the Fight against Corruption.”

The Chair then submitted the draft agenda (MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.3/06) and the draft schedule (MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.4/06) for the Meeting for consideration by the Conference. They were adopted by consensus ([Appendix 3](#) and [Appendix 4](#), respectively).

As per item 1 on the agenda and pursuant to Article 5 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference then elected its Chair. At the proposal of the delegation of Paraguay, seconded by the delegation of Costa Rica, the delegation of Brazil, in the person of its Permanent Representative to the OEA, Ambassador Osmar Chohfi, was reelected by acclamation.

Under the next item on the agenda, Ms. Simonetta Grassi, representative of the United Nations General Secretariat, delivered the first, introductory presentation, in which she referred to the United Nations Convention against Corruption ([Appendix 5](#)).

She was followed by Dr. Jorge García-González, Director of the Office of Legal Cooperation of the OAS General Secretariat's Department of International Legal Affairs – the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC – delivered the second introductory presentation on the background to, and developments in, cooperation in connection with the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and its Follow-up Mechanism.

Then the representatives of the civil society organizations, Ms. Silke Pfeiffer, Regional Director for Americas for “Transparency International”([Appendix 6](#)); Ms. Rita de Cassia BIASON, Coordinator for “*Movimiento Voto Consciente*” of Brazil; and Mr. Julio César Cabrera, President of “*Foro Permanente de Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil*” (FPOSC) of Honduras ([Appendix 7](#)), each gave a presentation on the subject of “Civil Society Organizations and Follow-up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.”

Moving on to the next item on the agenda, the Chair of the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC and Lead expert of Mexico, Mr. Moisés Herrera Solís, delivered a presentation ([Appendix 8](#)) on the Hemispheric Report on the First Review Round of the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC.

As per item 6 on the agenda, a dialogue then got under way among the heads of delegation, starting with remarks by the representative of Paraguay.

At the start of the second plenary session, the Conference proceeded to elect its Vice Chair. At the proposal of the delegation of Panama, seconded by the delegation of the United States, the delegation of Costa Rica, in the person of its Permanent Representative to the OEA, Ambassador Javier Sánchez Bonilla, was elected by acclamation Vice Chair of the Conference.

The dialogue of Heads of Delegation then continued. The Heads of Delegation of the following States parties took the floor in the following order: Venezuela ([Appendix 9](#)), Uruguay ([Appendix 10](#)), United States ([Appendix 11](#)), Brazil, Chile ([Appendix 12](#)), Peru ([Appendix 13](#)), Mexico ([Appendix 14](#)), Argentina ([Appendix 15](#)), Colombia, Ecuador, and Canada.

At the end of the dialogue, the Chair of the Conference gave a summary of the points of consensus and underscored the following:

1. The importance of the participation of civil society at both the national and international levels.
2. Strengthening of the financial capacity of the MESICIC and of the various initiatives presented.
3. The need to boost financial support for the Technical Secretariat and the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC.
4. Training as an area worth supporting.
5. The importance of on site visits.
6. The cooperation of international financial organizations in efforts to fight corruption.
7. The study of new ways of measuring the corruption phenomenon.
8. Improvement of the methodology for evaluating outcomes in review rounds.
9. The importance of reinforcing cooperation between the OAS and the UN in all areas related to their respective Conventions against Corruption.
10. The strengthening of cooperation in asset recovery.

The Conference then addressed the seventh item on the agenda, namely, consideration and adoption of the proposed Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption (MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.5/06).

For that, it used the draft produced during the preparatory meetings and went over it paragraph by paragraph.

After a number of amendments, agreement was reached on the text of the [Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Fight Corruption](#) (MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.5/06 rev. 2). Pursuant to operative paragraph 8 of resolution AG/RES. 2219 (XXXVI-O/06), the Conference instructed its Chair to present it, via the Permanent Council, to the OAS General Assembly for formal adoption at its thirty-seventh regular session.

The Conference also agreed on the following:

1. To instruct the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC to reincorporate into its Rules of Procedure the text that prior to the last amendment figured as Article 32, on follow-up visits, which reads as follows:

“Article 32. Visits for follow-up. In following up on the provisions reviewed and recommendations made within the framework of a round, as part of the methodology and cooperation efforts in accordance with provisions 3 and 7(b)(i) of the Report of Buenos Aires, the Committee may establish visits by the members of the subgroups to all reviewed States Parties in future rounds.

In addition, visits may be undertaken when the reviewed State Party requests said visit.”

2. To recommend looking into the possibility of a larger contribution to the MESICIC by the OAS Regular Fund.
3. To support OAS efforts to establish a secure information exchange network for mutual assistance in criminal matters and extradition.

4. To recommend looking into the subject of the forum for following-up on commitments to combat corruption.

On the eighth item on the agenda, requested by Canada, regarding consideration of the translation into English of the Document of Buenos Aires, it was agreed to install a style committee to examine Canada's observations on the need to harmonize the versions in the official languages of the OAS and to present a report to the next meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC.

On the ninth item on the agenda, "other business," the delegation of Mexico gave a presentation on the materials it distributed on anti-corruption programs.

Before concluding the meeting, the Secretariat read out these minutes, which were approved by consensus, along with all the appendices, which form an integral part of them.