



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

OEA/Ser.L/XXIII.2.4  
MESICIC/CEP-IV/doc.2/15 rev. 1  
15 December 2015  
Original: Portuguese

IV Meeting of the Conference of States Parties  
December 14-15, 2015  
Washington, DC

**RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES OF THE MESICIC\***

*The Conference of States Parties of the Mechanism for Follow-up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), at its Fourth Meeting, held pursuant to the provisions of the Report of Buenos Aires and of its Rules of Procedure, in Washington, D.C., United States of America, on December 14 and 15, 2015;*

REAFFIRMING, as stated in the preamble to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, that corruption “undermines the legitimacy of public institutions and strikes at society, moral order and justice, as well as at the comprehensive development of peoples”;

CONVINCED of the importance, usefulness, and effectiveness of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and of the Mechanism for Follow up on its implementation (MESICIC), for strengthening cooperation among the States Parties in the prevention, detection, punishment, and eradication of corruption;

BEARING IN MIND the commitments and mandates agreed on at the Summits of the Americas in connection with the fight against corruption, the implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, and the strengthening of its follow-up mechanism (MESICIC);

RECOGNIZING the support given to the strengthening of the MESICIC by the OAS General Assembly, in all of the resolutions adopted in connection therewith at its regular sessions since the creation of this mechanism;

RECALLING that resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14), in which the OAS General Assembly established the guidelines and objectives of the Strategic Vision of the Organization, included fighting corruption among the areas to be prioritized; and

BEARING IN MIND the support given to the organization of this Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties of the MESICIC by the OAS General Assembly its resolution AG/RES. 2848 (XLIV-O/14), of 2014,

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\* Pursuant to Article 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Parties of the MESICIC, these recommendations were approved by consensus at the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties, at the session held on December 15, 2015, held at OAS Headquarters in Washington D.C.

*Agrees on the following:*

**I. RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION AND ACCESSION TO THE MESICIC**

1. To urge the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) that have not yet done so, to consider, as promptly as possible and as applicable to each case, ratifying or acceding to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (hereinafter “the Convention”) and/or becoming members of the MESICIC, and to pursue such formalities as may be necessary to attain this objective.

**II. CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES OF THE MESICIC**

2. To continue consolidating the Conference of States Parties of the MESICIC as the organ with the overall authority and responsibility for implementing the Mechanism, and as the political forum for addressing the topics of hemispheric cooperation in preventing and combating corruption, pursuant to the Report of Buenos Aires and the decisions of the Conference.

**III. COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE MESICIC AND ITS PROGRESS IN REVIEWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

**3.1. Completion of the first four rounds of review**

3. To express its satisfaction with the progress made by the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC (hereinafter “the Committee”), with the support of the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs as Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC (hereinafter “the Technical Secretariat”), which is reflected, among others, in the successful conclusion of the first four rounds of review, in which 114 reports have been adopted that examine implementation by each of the States Parties of the topics of the Convention selected for those rounds and that formulate concrete recommendations to strengthen and make their legal-institutional frameworks more effective and, beginning with the reports adopted in the Second Round, that follow up on implementation of the recommendations adopted in earlier rounds.

**3.2. Hemispheric Report on the Fourth Round of Review**

4. To express its satisfaction with the content and scope of the Hemispheric Report on the Fourth Round of Review, adopted by the Committee of Experts on the basis of the draft prepared by the Technical Secretariat, which, among others, offers a general and comprehensive analysis of the country reports approved in that round, summarizes the recommendations made with respect to the oversight bodies examined, provides recommendations of a collective nature, and summarizes the progress made by the States Parties as a whole in implementing the recommendations formulated to them by the Committee in the First Round. These recommendations deal with, for example, rules for preventing conflicts of interest, the obligation of public officials to report acts of corruption, systems for those officials to disclose their income, assets and liabilities, mechanisms for civil society participation, and assistance and cooperation among the States Parties in combating corruption. In this connection, the Conference highlights that the contents of said report provide an insight into such matters as the following:

- a. The importance of the Committee's comprehensive review of the principal oversight bodies of the States Parties involved in the prevention, investigation, and punishment of corrupt acts that result in criminal, disciplinary or administrative, or financial or civil responsibility, with 139 of such bodies having been reviewed, including Supreme Courts of Justice, Attorney General's Offices, Prosecutor's Offices, Transparency or Civil Service Secretariats, Comptrollers' Offices, and Audit Offices.
- b. The scope of the recommendations formulated to strengthen those bodies, when considered necessary, on such matters as the adequacy of their legal frameworks, their operational independence, their inter-institutional coordination, the resources needed for them to adequately carry out their functions, training of their personnel, their relations with the public, their programs for institutional strengthening and the use of new technologies, their internal control mechanisms, their results and efficiency in achieving their objectives, and accountability for their performance and results.
- c. The progress of the States Parties as a whole in implementing the recommendations that were formulated to them in the First Round (42% implemented satisfactorily; 38% with progress in their implementation; and 20% with no information on progress) and the measures taken by each State that constitute progress in this regard and which correspond to a total of 1,334 measures of different types, such as the adoption of laws and/or legal measures, the processing of draft legislation, international cooperation activities, institutional strengthening programs, the use of electronic tools or systems, and training and/or awareness-building activities.
- d. The successful completion of 30 on-site visits to the same number of States Parties, which provided valuable information for analysis and the subsequent formulation of recommendations regarding the oversight bodies reviewed, as well as for follow-up on implementation of the recommendations formulated in the First Round, in which 856 public officials from 175 state entities participated, including many at the most senior level, as well as 189 civil society organizations, private sector organizations, professional associations, academics and researchers, and other social actors, such as press and media associations.
- e. The usefulness of the MESICIC to assist States Parties in fighting corruption, which is reflected not only in the acknowledgements to that effect from those States in which the recommendations have served as a basis and an impetus for legal and institutional reforms and for the adoption of laws and measures of different types or that purpose, but also from civil society organizations, academics and researchers who have used its analysis in their work on the phenomenon of corruption.

### **3.3. Beginning of the Fifth Round of Review**

5. To express its satisfaction with the beginning of the Fifth Round of Review, in which the Committee, pursuant to the methodology adopted for that round, will follow up on implementation of the recommendations formulated in the Second Round, with regard to the hiring of civil servants, public procurement, the criminalization of acts of corruption, and the protection of those who report and witness such acts; examine any new developments in the countries in these

areas; and also review implementation of the provisions of the Convention selected for the Fifth Round, in relation to instructions to government personnel to ensure proper understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical rules governing their activities, and the relationship between equitable compensation and probity in public service.

#### **IV. ON-SITE VISITS**

6. To express its satisfaction with the Committee's adoption, on the basis of the draft prepared by the Technical Secretariat, as provided for by the Third Meeting of the Conference of States Parties of the MESICIC, of a methodology for conducting on-site visits, which demonstrated its usefulness in the successful completion of 30 on-site visits during the Fourth Round of Review, the findings of which are summarized in the Hemispheric Report for that Round; and to recommend that the Committee continue to use the methodology in future rounds, so that it may continue to benefit from the additional information provided by those on-site visits to support its analyses and recommendations and so that the countries may continue to be afforded the opportunity offered by those visits to report on their best practices, express their difficulties in implementing the Convention, and request technical assistance in that regard, as guaranteed by the aforementioned methodology.

7. To urge the States Parties to continue giving their consent to the holding of on-site visits in their respective countries and to continue offering the Committee and the Technical Secretariat the collaboration and support required to organize and conduct them, increasingly facilitating the necessary coordination to do so among their officials, the Technical Secretariat, and the Committee experts designated to carry them out, by providing them with the information they need before, during, and after the visits in a timely manner, and by assigning officials with direct, practical knowledge of the topics identified to be addressed during the respective on-site visits.

8. To recommend that the States Parties consider making voluntary contributions to guarantee the funding of the expenses required by the on-site visits, so as to ensure their financial sustainability and uninterrupted execution. To those ends, the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC may also negotiate and receive voluntary contributions from States not party to the Convention, international financial institutions, and international cooperation agencies, and all other contributions that may be received in accordance with the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the OAS General Secretariat. Contributions for the funding of on-site visits shall be made without conditions related to the substance of the review process or its outcomes and without expectations of influence, and they shall be used in accordance with provision 3, paragraphs (a) and (b), of the Report of Buenos Aires.

#### **V. FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS ROUNDS AND ANALYSIS OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION TO WHICH THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS REFER**

9. To express its satisfaction with the decisions adopted by the Committee to commence the Fifth Round of Review, as reflected in the questionnaire to gather information, the structure of the reports to be adopted in the round, and the methodology for the analysis, in which, *inter alia*, it decided the following:

- a. With regard to the follow-up of recommendations, to adopt the criterion established in recommendation 9 (a) of the Third Meeting of the Conference of States Parties of the MESICIC, to give high priority to the follow-up of recommendations, and during the Fifth Round, to follow up on the recommendations which were formulated to the States Parties in their corresponding reports from the Second Round and which the Committee has determined require additional attention in the reports from the Third Round, including the consideration of any new and relevant information or developments that would enable the Committee to determine whether the respective recommendations and measures suggested in the reports of the Second Round remain valid, and in relation to those that are still valid, to assess whether the State has given them satisfactory consideration or whether they require additional attention, or, when applicable, to restate or reformulate them.
  - b. Also, to analyze new developments in the States Parties relating to the provisions of the Convention referred to in the recommendations formulated in the Second Round, taking into account such factors as legal framework, technological developments, and results, and to make any necessary observations and recommendations.
10. To recommend that the Committee, in future rounds, adopt decisions which:
- a. Allow for high priority to continue to be given to following up on recommendations and to analyzing new developments regarding the provisions of the Convention referred to in those recommendations.
  - b. Adopt the measures necessary so that the members of the Committee can learn of the draft decisions related to the beginning of each round, such as the provisions of the Convention to be considered in each round and the methodology for their review, sufficiently in advance.
11. To recommend that the Committee, in each of the above cases, continue to review the application and enforcement of the measures adopted, in addition to their *de jure* implementation.
12. To urge the States Parties to adopt, or continue to adopt, the measures necessary for full implementation of the recommendations formulated to them during the first four rounds of review, considering for this purpose the development of the actions that the Committee has indicated in the hemispheric reports from those rounds, in the section on recommendations of a collective nature that, in compliance with Article 30 of its Rules of Procedure, it has formulated to them for that purpose, including the advisability of having an organ, authority, or entity in each State that assumes responsibility for giving impetus to the process of implementation of the recommendations; the importance of specifying the activities required to do so; the adoption of a plan of action or any other procedure making it possible to program such activities; the identification of those responsible for their execution; and the design of indicators to objectively measure progress in their execution.
13. To support the process wherein, pursuant to Article 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, the States Parties annually inform the Committee of the measures that they have adopted to implement the recommendations formulated by the Committee, as well as of the compilation of those measures in the annual progress reports provided for by Article 32 of the Rules of Procedure, and recommend to the Committee, that in order to make the best use of resources, that

the summary of those measures be included in the hemispheric report of the corresponding round, as was done with respect to the Hemispheric Report of the Fourth Round, and for those annual progress reports to be disseminated through the *Anti-Corruption Portal of the Americas*.

## **VI. TOPICS OF COLLECTIVE INTEREST**

14. To recommend that the Committee, bearing in mind the provisions of Articles 3 (h) and 37 (b) and (c) of its Rules of Procedure, continue to consider the following topics as topics of collective interest, in addition to other topics that the Committee may identify in the course of its work and without prejudice to others that have been addressed in its meetings:

### **6.1. Responsibility of the private sector in preventing and combating corruption**

15. To express its satisfaction with the Committee's analyses of those provisions of the Convention that involve the private sector as a fundamental actor for achieving the Convention's purposes of preventing, detecting, investigating, and punishing corrupt acts, such as those that refer to the prevention of bribery of domestic and foreign government officials through mechanisms to ensure that companies maintain records of their transactions and establish internal controls to enable their personnel to detect corrupt acts, the provisions that lay out the obligation to report such acts, and those that provide for the criminalization of unlawful acts so that their perpetrators may be punished with the severity merited by their dishonest behavior.

16. To express its satisfaction with the decision adopted by the Committee at its Seventeenth Meeting to treat the issue of the "responsibility of the private sector in preventing and combating corruption" as a "topic of collective interest" and to recommend that, with the support of the Technical Secretariat, that it continue to give it that treatment, based on the methodology adopted for that purpose, which provides that the Committee will formulate a set of guidelines on basic or fundamental principles or rules that could be considered for incorporation into national laws or legal frameworks, with a view to promoting, strengthening, or ensuring that responsibility; and to suggest that it include among such guidelines indications of how to promote effective cooperation between the public and private sectors in preventing and combating corruption.

17. To urge the States Parties to take advantage of the opportunities afforded them by the Committee, by virtue of the foregoing, to share information on successful practices in promoting the integrity of the private sector, such as the development of awareness campaigns to that end, the holding of events on corporate social responsibility, the signing of probity agreements with those companies, and other measures involving actors from that sector designed to prevent corruption in companies and to engage their representatives in reporting acts of corruption, particularly with respect to the payment of bribes as a means of obtaining government concessions or contracts.

18. To urge the Committee and the States Parties to continue encouraging the participation of private sector representatives in meetings that address their responsibility in preventing and combating corruption, as well as during on-site visits, in order to continue creating awareness in that sector, on the understanding that a shared responsibility exists between the public and private sectors in preventing and combating the scourge of corruption.

## **6.2. International cooperation in non-criminal matters in the fight against corruption**

19. To express its satisfaction with the comprehensive review conducted by the Committee in its Fourth Round, of the oversight bodies responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation, and punishment of acts of corruption that result in disciplinary or administrative and financial or civil responsibility, as well as with the analysis carried out on the bodies that exercise oversight over corrupt acts that result in criminal responsibility, in which the importance of strengthening legal cooperation among the States Parties in non-criminal matters related to acts of corruption, notwithstanding what has been traditionally put forward regarding the criminal aspects related to such acts, was discussed.

20. To recognize the progress made by the Committee in the sense described above, reflected in the decision adopted at its Twenty-fourth Meeting, to include in its 2014-2015 Work Program, as a topic of collective interest, international cooperation in non-criminal matters in the fight against corruption, with respect to which the delegation of Brazil, at the Committee's Twenty-fifth Meeting, made a presentation and subsequently transmitted to the States Parties, through the Technical Secretariat, a questionnaire that allowed information to be gathered on the need to strengthen that cooperation, consistent with the State's national legal system.

21. To recommend that the Committee, bearing in mind the decision it adopted at its Twenty-fourth Meeting, continue giving consideration, as a topic of collective interest, to international legal cooperation in non-criminal matters in the fight against corruption. To this end, with the support of the Technical Secretariat, that it consider a methodology to identify the requirements and procedures in effect in each State Party to provide the other States Parties with said cooperation, where appropriate, and consistent with the State's national legal system.

## **6.3. Exchange of information on practical cases of corruption of international significance**

22. To recommend that the Committee, in view of the fact that some corruption cases are of international significance, as expressly recognized in the preamble to the Convention, consider as a topic of collective interest the exchange of experiences on practical cases of corruption of international significance and, for this purpose, with the support of the Technical Secretariat, adopt a methodology for the presentation of cases. The presentations should at all times be intended to share experiences, as appropriate, that can be of benefit to the States Parties in their consideration of similar cases, and to strengthen the international cooperation merited by their transnational nature.

## **6.4. Internal oversight in public institutions**

23. Recognize the importance of establishing internal oversight systems in public institutions, as a tool to manage risks inherent to administration, thereby providing reasonable assurance that they will achieve their objectives and eliminating areas in which corruption occurs, and recommend to the States Parties that they continue strengthening these systems to prevent, detect and combat corruption.

## **VII. COOPERATION TOOLS, INCLUDING THE MODEL LAW FOR THE PREVENTION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

24. To express its satisfaction with the adoption, within the framework of the Committee, and using a methodology that guaranteed broad participation by authorities of the States Parties and civil society organizations, of the “Model Law on the Declaration of Interests, Income, Assets and Liabilities of Persons Performing Public Functions” and the “Model Law to Facilitate and Encourage the Reporting of Acts of Corruption and to Protect Whistleblowers and Witnesses,” and to encourage the States Parties to take advantage or continue to take advantage of the provisions contained in those model laws, in order to strengthen their legal-institutional frameworks in the areas of the Convention addressed therein.

25. To recommend that the Committee continue elaborating model legislation related to the provisions of the Convention, using to that end the same broadly participatory methodology for the development of the aforementioned model laws and that it consider giving priority in these efforts to the adoption of a model law on the prevention of conflicts of interest, given the importance of this matter, notwithstanding the others that are deemed to be equally important, and subject to the availability of resources.

26. To recognize the usefulness of the legal cooperation tools developed by the Technical Secretariat, such as the systematization of national laws and legislative guides on topics analyzed by the MESICIC, which support the States Parties in their implementation of the Convention and improves the efficiency and effectiveness of their national laws, policies, and institutions related to the prevention of and fight against corruption. Similarly, to recommend that, subject to the availability of resources, the Technical Secretariat continue to develop tools to that end.

27. To recommend that the States Parties take advantage of the benefits offered by the “Hemispheric Network for Legal Cooperation in Criminal Matters,” established in the framework of the hemispheric cooperation process known as “Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA),” a tool that is at their disposal and the use of which allows for that cooperation to be carried out easily and securely, which is fundamental in the investigation and punishment of acts of corruption.

28. To highlight the usefulness of the Introductory Guide for MESICIC Experts as an instrument that facilitates the understanding and training of newly appointed government experts with regard to the Convention, the MESICIC, and their responsibilities thereunder, and to request that the Technical Secretariat keep it updated and facilitate access to it by those experts.

29. To urge the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC to continue disseminating specific information on the Convention and the MESICIC in training institutions, such as schools, institutes, academies, and university departments of public administration, law, and criminal justice, as well as information on any national and international training programs on matters related to cooperation against corruption that they are aware of and that can be of benefit to other States Parties.



## **VIII. INDICATORS ON RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION**

30. To express its satisfaction with the analyses that the Committee has been conducting on the results of the implementation by the States Parties of the provisions of the Convention addressed thus far in its rounds of review, and which have demonstrated the advisability of having indicators that facilitate the presentation and follow-up of the results and progress achieved by the States Parties in the various areas provided for by the provisions of the Convention.

31. To request the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC, subject to the availability of resources, to develop a standard methodology with a set of indicators that facilitate the presentation and follow-up of the results and progress achieved by the States Parties in the various areas provided for by the provisions of the Convention, and which allow identification of those areas in which improvements are needed, and a determination of the technical assistance required to do so. Similarly, request that the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC submit that set of indicators to the States Parties for consideration within the framework of the Committee and promote its use once it has been adopted.

## **IX. DISSEMINATION**

32. To acknowledge the usefulness of the *Anticorruption Portal of the Americas*, which operates on the OAS Internet web page and which facilitates access to information regarding the progress made in the area of transparency in public administration and anticorruption cooperation within the framework of the OAS, including all the progress made within the framework of the MESICIC, and with respect to developments made by those institutions of the States Parties with responsibilities in this area. In addition, to request that the Technical Secretariat continue consolidating the Portal, and to urge the States Parties to provide it with relevant information in order to keep it up to date.

33. To highlight the usefulness of the dissemination, through the *Anticorruption Bulletin* and through social networks, of the developments taking place in the framework of the MESICIC, and to request that the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC to continue disseminating these developments through these means.

34. To request that the Technical Secretariat, subject to available resources, continue disseminating the reports, activities and developments made in the area of preventing and combating corruption within the framework of the MESICIC, and, in order to make the best use of resources, to preferentially use the *Anticorruption Portal of the Americas* for this purpose.

35. To urge the States Parties to quickly and efficiently distribute and disseminate copies of the reports adopted by the Committee that have to do with their respective State, among the organs and institutions that, pursuant to their internal legal framework, are responsible for implementing the corresponding recommendations.

36. To urge the States Parties to disseminate as broadly as possible, via the Internet and through other means, the country reports and hemispheric reports referred to in Articles 25 and 30, respectively, of the Committee's Rules of Procedure.

37. To urge the States Parties to disseminate in society and through the media, the work of the MESICIC and, in particular, as deemed appropriate, the corresponding country reports adopted by the Committee.

#### **X. REPOSITORY OF BEST PRACTICES AND FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON EMERGING CHALLENGES**

38. To express its satisfaction with the opportunities that the Committee has been affording the States Parties in order for them to share their best practices related to the prevention, detection, investigation, and punishment of acts of corruption, as reflected in the Hemispheric Report on the Fourth Round of Review, which lists a total of 85 actions that the States Parties wished to share as best practices related to the oversight bodies analyzed in that Round.

39. To recommend to the Committee that, in order to take greater advantage of the best practices that the States Parties wish to share related to preventing and combating corruption, that the Committee continue to be consolidated as a forum and repository of such practices and, to that end, based on a proposal prepared by the Technical Secretariat, it adopt a methodology that, among others, facilitates the presentation of best practices and for which the Technical Secretariat, when developing it, can compile those practices by thematic area, disseminate them, and make them available to the Committee so that their use may be systematically promoted and so that the States Parties can benefit from the responses and solutions they may find in such practices in order to address the challenges they face.

40. To recommend that the Committee continue consolidating the MESICIC as a forum for information exchange and reciprocal cooperation between the States Parties and, to this end, subject to available resources, that the Technical Secretariat organize technical forums or meetings with the participation of national authorities responsible for specific subject areas related to the prevention of or fight against corruption, and that it design, support, or maintain Internet web pages or networks, with a view to facilitating the exchange of information and experiences and legal cooperation between them.

41. Recommend to the Committee, that as a forum for the exchange of information and reciprocal cooperation between the States Parties, it give special and permanent attention to the discussion of new challenges resulting from the evolution of the phenomenon of corruption, such as the emergence of new, diverse and increasingly sophisticated ways of committing acts of corruption and for hiding these acts, so that States Parties can exchange their opinions, knowledge, developments and best practices in this regard and discuss the new measures that will be necessary to strengthen international cooperation, in order to effectively confront these new challenges.

42. Recognize the importance of supporting the best practices of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) and their initiatives to strengthen their cooperation with international and regional organizations in the fight against corruption.

## **XI. COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS**

43. To continue promoting cooperation, information exchange, and the development of joint activities in areas related to preventing and combating corruption with other international organizations, such as the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Council of Europe, the World Bank and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC).

44. To request that the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC continue promoting reciprocal cooperation between the OAS General Secretariat and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), so that the information, developments, and assistance needs identified through the MESICIC may be taken into account by the Academy in its training programs and that the MESICIC States Parties may benefit from them.

45. To urge donor organizations and other facilitators of international cooperation to give priority to the provision of technical cooperation intended to increase the capacity of the States Parties to implement the Convention.

## **XII. PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, ACADEMICS AND RESEARCHERS, AND OTHER SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE MESICIC**

46. To express its satisfaction with the use that civil society organizations have been making of the ample opportunities for participation provided to them by the MESICIC, as expressly guaranteed in the Report of Buenos Aires, the Rules of Procedure of both the Conference of States Parties and the Committee of Experts, and in the methodology adopted by the Committee for conducting on-site visits, in which those opportunities are even further expanded by the promotion of participation of civil society organizations, the private sector, professional associations, academics and researchers, and other social actors, during such visits, in fulfillment of the recommendation of the Third Meeting of the Conference of States Parties of the MESICIC, to adopt measures to foster the broadest and most diverse participation possible of these organizations in the activities of the Mechanism.

47. To acknowledge the contributions made by civil society organizations, private sector organizations, professional associations, academics and researchers, and other social actors, as a result of the opportunities for participation made available to them by the MESICIC, particularly in the on-site visits conducted by the Committee beginning in its Fourth Round of Review, as reflected in the Hemispheric Report on that Round, which indicates that 68 civil society organizations, 38 private sector organizations, 38 professional associations, 36 academics and researchers, and 9 other social actors, such as press and media associations, took part in these visits, for a total of 189 participants, all of whom provided the Committee with valuable information for analysis, as may be seen in the reports adopted in that Round for each of the 30 countries in which the aforementioned visits took place.

48. To encourage States Parties, in accordance with their national legal system, to consider supporting the participation of civil society organizations and other social actors in the activities of the MESICIC.

49. To acknowledge the contributions made by civil society organizations in the implementation process of the MESICIC recommendations, and to continue facilitating their participation in the activities of the Committee and of the Conference of States Parties, in accordance with provision 8 of the Report of Buenos Aires and Article 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

### **XIII. FINANCING AND TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE MECHANISM**

50. To recommend that those States Parties that have contributed to financing the activities of the MESICIC consider continuing to do so, and that those that have not done so consider making contributions to that end, in order for the Mechanism to continue executing its work in an efficient and optimal manner and, in particular, so that financing is available to carry out the necessary activities to fully implement the recommendations contained in this report. Similarly, to the extent possible, consider strengthening the financial support of the MESICIC with resources from the OAS Regular Fund.

51. To acknowledge the quality of the work developed by the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC in promoting the implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, thereby contributing to the achievement of its objectives through the follow-up on the commitments undertaken by the States Parties in facilitating the development of technical cooperation activities and the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices; as well as, among others, in supporting the preparation and implementation of the rounds of review, the organization and execution of on-site visits, and the preparation and adoption of the report corresponding to each country in those rounds as well as the hemispheric reports related thereto.

52. To request that the OAS General Secretariat, through the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC, continue, among others, supporting the work of the Committee and of the Conference of States Parties, and in particular, the development of the actions and recommendations provided for by this document, which, as a whole, comprise the program for strengthening the prevention and fight against corruption within the framework of the MESICIC, pursuant to the resources allocated in the program-budget and other resources of the OAS.