



Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

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Agenda item 2

Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Updated analysis of the views of States parties on the next phase of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present document contains an updated analysis of the views of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption pertaining to the next phase of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The analysis draws on the replies received from 42 States parties to a questionnaire enclosed with a note verbale of 8 May 2024 with regard to the next phase of the Mechanism and is focused on the scope and thematic sequence of the next review phase and the different procedural steps of the review process. In addition, where appropriate, reference is made to the views shared by States parties in response to a questionnaire circulated in 2023; during the deliberations of the Implementation Review Group; during the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, as summarized in a related note by the secretariat ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2024/4](#)); and during the fifteenth session of the Group. Section III of this document includes key issues identified and suggestions made by States parties that the Group may wish to consider in its deliberations on the next phase of the Mechanism.



I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 14 of its resolution 8/2, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption requested the Implementation Review Group to continue to collect, with the support of the secretariat, relevant information, including the views of States parties, pertaining to the performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, with a view to continuing, at the appropriate time, its assessment of the performance of the Mechanism, as provided for in paragraph 48 of its terms of reference and decision 5/1, and in that regard to continue to report to the Conference on progress made, bearing in mind the request in paragraph 5 of resolution 3/1 for the evaluation of the terms of reference at the conclusion of each review cycle.
2. In that regard, during previous sessions of the Group, speakers welcomed the proposals by the secretariat to prepare an analysis, in accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of Conference resolution 8/2 and based in part on a questionnaire, of the views of States parties on the Mechanism and the review process, as well as of preliminary views and ideas for the design of the second phase of the Mechanism. Several speakers stressed that lessons learned in the current review phase should be an important consideration when discussing the second phase.
3. A comprehensive collection of the views of States parties on the performance of the Mechanism, including lessons learned and views on potential areas for improvement, was carried out in 2023 and an analysis of the responses provided by 46 States parties was presented to the Implementation Review Group at its fourteenth session ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/3](#)). An initial analysis of the views of States parties had been carried out in 2021, when the views gathered from 26 States parties were analysed and made available to the Conference (see [CAC/COSP/2021/4](#)). Since then, the Group has continued to collect and analyse relevant information, including the views of States parties, pertaining to the performance of the Mechanism and the next review phase.
4. Moreover, in its decision 10/2, the Conference decided, inter alia, that the Implementation Review Group should dedicate the time necessary to continue its discussions on assessing the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, as well as on the scope, thematic sequence and details of the next review phase, including through additional resumed sessions of the Group, if possible, back-to-back with sessions of the Group, within existing resources or subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to submit recommendations to the Conference at its eleventh session in that regard, and to endeavour to launch the next phase as soon as possible.
5. To support the deliberations of the Group and the Conference on the performance of the Mechanism and the next review phase, the secretariat has continued to provide updated analyses of the views shared by States parties on the next review phase (see [CAC/COSP/IRG/2024/4](#)) and on the performance of the Mechanism, the measures required for the completion of the first phase and considerations regarding the next phase (see [CAC/COSP/2023/3](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/9](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/CRP.2](#) and [CAC/COSP/2019/12](#)).
6. Building on this background, the present note provides an updated, comprehensive analysis of the views of States parties on the next phase of the Mechanism, with a focus on the scope and thematic sequence of the next review phase and the different procedural steps of the review process, in order to provide both a quantitative and qualitative analysis and an overview of concrete suggestions regarding the next phase. To facilitate the gathering of information, a questionnaire

enclosed with a note verbale was circulated in May 2024, inviting all States parties to share their views; the questionnaire was also made available online.¹

7. The analysis contained in the present note is based on the responses received from 42 States parties and provides an overview of the views received in relation to the next phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism, with a focus on the scope and thematic sequence of the next review phase and the different procedural steps of the review process.² Section III of this document contains a number of key issues identified and suggestions made by States parties that the Implementation Review Group may wish to consider in its discussions on the next phase of the Mechanism.

II. Analysis of the views shared by States parties to the Convention

8. The following sections contain both a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the feedback received from States parties in response to the questionnaire. Not only are the individual views shared by States parties presented: the data collected are also shown in the form of charts to allow for the identification of trends. These trends can help to inform deliberations on the design of the next phase of the Mechanism by highlighting aspects that States parties considered effective and areas where States parties considered that there could be room for improvement in the next phase. Where appropriate, reference is also made to the views shared during the deliberations of the Implementation Review Group and during the tenth session of the Conference.

A. Scope and thematic sequence of country reviews

9. The first set of questions related to the scope and thematic sequence of the next phase of the Mechanism. States parties were asked in particular whether they preferred to maintain the current review structure and sequence of chapters of the Convention (that is, the review of the implementation of chapters III (Criminalization and law enforcement) and IV (International cooperation) of the Convention in the first review cycle, and the review of the implementation of chapters II (Preventive measures) and V (Asset recovery) in the second review cycle), either alone or in combination with other elements, such as a follow-up procedure or a greater focus on the practical or effective implementation of the provisions under review; whether they preferred to change the structure, for instance, by combining the reviews of the chapters differently, by reviewing the implementation of chapter II on its own or by also reviewing the implementation of chapter VI (Technical assistance and information exchange); or whether they had other preferences.

10. In their responses, States parties shared their views with regard to the thematic scope of the next review phase and the division of the review phases into cycles, as well as the sequence of the chapters under review in each cycle. The responses were largely consistent with those provided by States parties in response to a questionnaire circulated in 2023 in that the majority of States parties highlighted the need for a follow-up assessment of the outcomes of the first review phase and the need for a greater focus on practical implementation or effectiveness. The majority of States

¹ The note verbale and the questionnaire annexed thereto are available at www.unodc.org/corruption/en/uncac/implementation-review-mechanism-next-phase_notes-verbales.html.

² As at 3 July 2024, submissions had been received from the following 42 States parties to the Convention: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, Ukraine, Uruguay and United States of America. All States parties filled in the questionnaire to share their views. As some States parties did not answer all questions, all statistics presented in this note are based on the number of responses received for each specific question. Percentages displayed in charts are rounded to the nearest whole number.

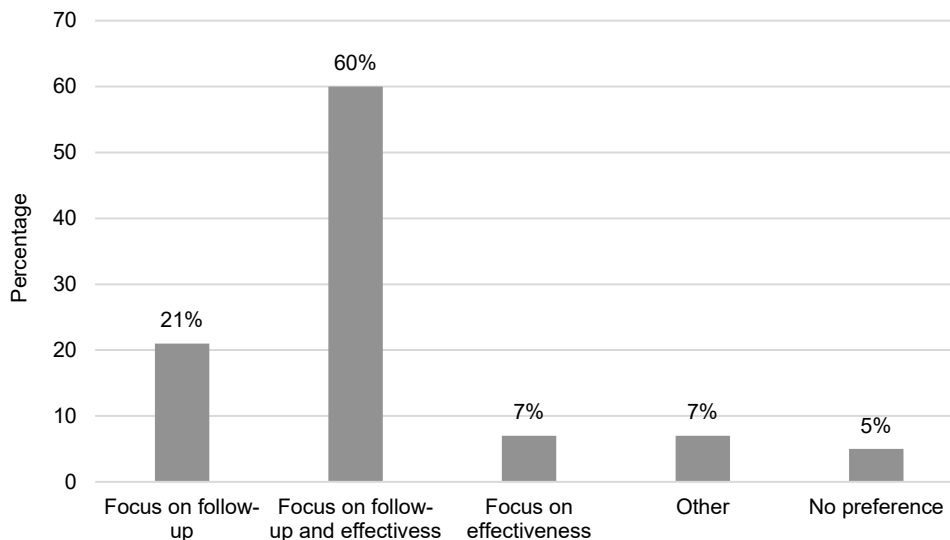
parties also preferred to maintain the current thematic sequence, that is, the order of the chapters of the Convention under review. Different perspectives on the follow-up process and its thematic content were made clear in the responses, with States parties making various suggestions in that regard. Overall, the responses were also consistent with the views on the scope and thematic sequence of the next phase expressed by States parties during the sessions of the Implementation Review Group in 2022 and 2023 and during the tenth session of the Conference, in December 2023, as summarized in a related note by the secretariat ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2024/4](#)).

1. Scope of the country reviews

11. With regard to the scope of the next review phase, as shown in figure I, most States parties (60 per cent of respondents) considered that the focus of the next phase should be on both following up on the implementation of the recommendations and findings emanating from the first phase and assessing the practical or effective implementation of the provisions under review. Twenty-one per cent of the responding States parties expressed the view that the next review phase should focus on follow-up, while 7 per cent (three States parties) considered that the focus should be on practical implementation or effectiveness alone. Another 7 per cent (three States parties) expressed other views regarding the scope of the next review phase,³ and 5 per cent (two States parties) expressed no preference regarding the scope of the next phase, but focused their responses on the thematic sequence.

Figure I
Scope of the next review phase

(Percentage of respondents)



12. While a large majority of States parties (81 per cent of respondents in total) considered that the next phase should include a focus on following up on the outcomes of the first review phase, either alone or in combination with reviewing the practical or effective implementation of the provisions, there was some variation with regard to what States parties understood the follow-up review to entail. While follow-up could be understood to mean assessing any new developments since the first phase and not repeating the full review, a narrower possible approach that was mentioned by some States parties would be to assess only the implementation by the State party under review of the recommendations issued in the first review phase. Other approaches would be to focus on new developments in combination with assessing effectiveness or to conduct a review of the implementation of updated good practices and recommendations. One State party considered that, while the next phase should

³ The other suggestions were to have a narrower focus on an undefined set of topics, to focus on emerging issues and to review all chapters of the Convention in their entirety.

prioritize the follow-up to the first review phase, that should be done in combination with an assessment of the provisions of the Convention. Among the States parties that expressed a preference for undertaking a follow-up review in combination with a review of effectiveness, one State party suggested also considering whether the follow-up review could focus only on the implementation of the most central obligations, instead of evaluating the implementation of all commitments under the respective chapters, while another State party suggested that the follow-up process should focus on the implementation of the recommendations and conclusions emanating from the review of the implementation of chapters II and IV of the Convention and that consideration should be given to having a more specific focus on preventive measures and the need for technical assistance. One State party suggested conducting a study on the timing and modality of reviewing the implementation of chapter II of the Convention, given its subject matter, complexity and scope.

13. The views shared by States parties with regard to the scope of the next phase were largely consistent with those provided in response to the 2023 questionnaire and with those shared during the sessions of the Implementation Review Group in 2022 and 2023 and during the tenth session of the Conference, as summarized in the related note by the secretariat (CAC/COSP/IRG/2024/4), in that the absence of a dedicated follow-up process was considered the main weakness of the Mechanism. In that regard, a slightly higher number of respondents to the 2023 questionnaire preferred a combined approach, whereby all or some articles of the Convention are reviewed in parallel with a follow-up assessment of how recommendations and conclusions are addressed, to other suggestions for changes to the scope and thematic sequence, in order to allow for new developments to be taken into account. A slightly smaller number of respondents to the 2023 questionnaire preferred having a greater or exclusive focus on following up on the implementation of the recommendations and findings emanating from the first review phase. Moreover, among the specific suggestions for changes to the scope and thematic sequence of country reviews, the option of placing a greater focus on assessing the effectiveness of measures taken and practical implementation received the most support from respondents to the 2023 questionnaire; the number of respondents supporting that option was more than twice the average than for the other options, taking into account that that approach was to be considered in combination with other options, such as a follow-up process. Similarly, during previous sessions of the Implementation Review Group, including the fifteenth regular session, and the tenth session of the Conference, many speakers suggested that in the next phase a greater focus should be placed on practical implementation and the effectiveness and impact of measures taken, building on the experience of other related mechanisms; however, such a focus would also require a sound methodology, for example, one based on indicators. Taking into account lessons learned from other mechanisms, there could be greater resource requirements and capacity constraints.

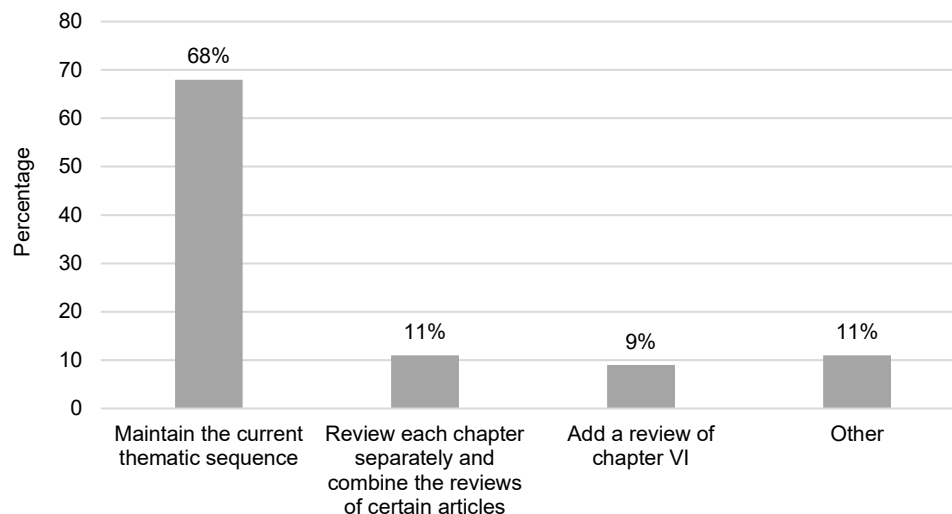
2. Thematic sequence of the country reviews

14. Taking into account the preference expressed by 81 per cent of States parties regarding the need for a follow-up process, suggestions were made in relation to the thematic sequence of the next review phase, as shown in figure II. The majority of States parties (68 per cent of respondents) preferred to maintain the current thematic sequence, namely, the review of chapters III and IV of the Convention in the first review cycle and the review of chapters II and V in the second review cycle. Eleven per cent (five States parties) expressed a preference for reviewing each chapter of the Convention separately, for example, by reviewing one chapter per cycle and by combining the reviews of certain articles and chapters that are thematically linked, such as article 14 and chapter V. Nine per cent (four States parties) suggested also reviewing chapter VI, on technical assistance and information exchange. Among the other suggestions made by five States parties were conducting the reviews over the course of only one review cycle, with a narrower scope, breaking down the review of chapter II by reviewing articles 5 to 13 alone and by reviewing article 14 together with chapter V, changing the sequence of the review of chapters by reviewing

chapters II and III in the first cycle and chapters IV and V in the second cycle, integrating into the structure of the next phase the choice regarding the review of chapters III and IV in the first cycle and chapters II and V in the second cycle, and taking a flexible approach by adapting the thematic sequence on the basis of changing circumstances.

Figure II
Thematic sequence of the next review phase

(Percentage of respondents)



15. The views on the thematic sequence of the next review phase were also consistent with those provided by States parties in response to the 2023 questionnaire, during the sessions of the Implementation Review Group in 2022 and 2023 and during the tenth session of the Conference, as summarized in the related note by the secretariat (CAC/COSP/IRG/2024/4). Overall, the majority of States parties responding to the 2023 questionnaire preferred to maintain the current structure rather than reconsider the sequence of chapters, with more than 80 per cent of the respondents considering the current structure to be very useful or rather useful. Similarly, during previous sessions of the Implementation Review Group and during the tenth session of the Conference, it was suggested that the next phase should continue to follow the current sequence of chapters as set out in Conference resolution 3/1. No trends could be identified with regard to other options, namely, reconsidering how the reviews of different chapters or provisions are combined for each review cycle, for instance by covering one chapter of the Convention per review cycle or covering chapter VI of the Convention together with other provisions under review. Similarly, during the fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group, several speakers suggested that each review cycle should focus on the implementation of a single chapter of the Convention, while others expressed the view that the next phase should be conducted in accordance with Conference resolution 3/1 and follow the order of chapters as set out in that resolution. Some speakers indicated that the scope should be defined by establishing specific thematic priorities.

B. Reporting on progress after a country review has concluded

16. Reporting on progress after a review has concluded is closely related to the scope and thematic sequence of the next review phase. In accordance with paragraph 40 of the terms of reference of the Mechanism, in the following review phase, each State party is to submit information in its responses to the comprehensive self-assessment checklist on progress achieved in connection with the observations contained in its previous country review reports and, as appropriate, on whether technical assistance requested in relation to their country review reports has been

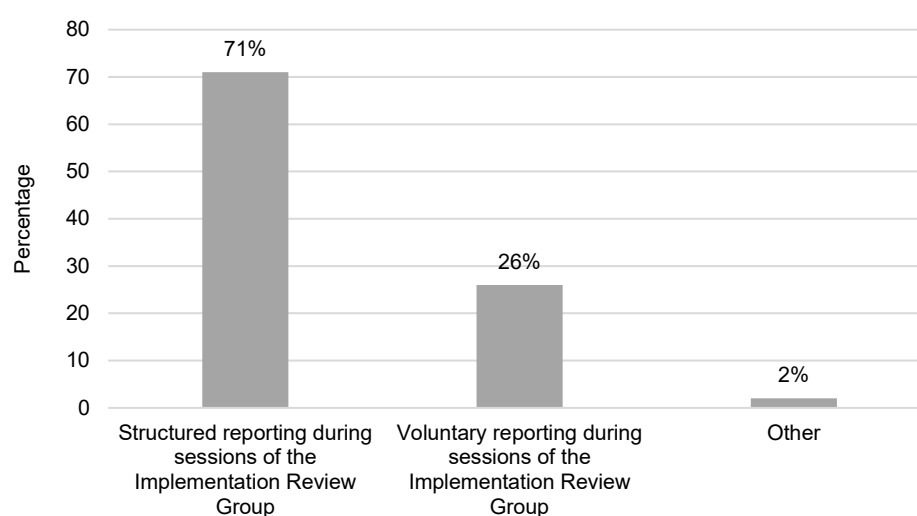
provided. The procedures and requirements for such follow-up are to be assessed and adapted, where appropriate, by the Conference, through the Implementation Review Group (para. 41 of the terms of reference).

17. In addition to reporting information in the responses to the self-assessment checklist on progress achieved, as provided for in paragraph 40 of the terms of reference, States parties were asked to indicate which procedure for reporting on progress achieved after a review had concluded they would find most helpful outside the context of the review. Suggested examples included voluntary reporting by States parties during sessions of the Implementation Review Group on measures taken to follow up on recommendations, and structured reporting by all States parties during sessions of the Group on measures taken to follow up on recommendations.

18. As shown in figure III, 71 per cent of the respondents were in favour of a structured procedure for reporting during sessions of the Group, while 26 per cent preferred the possibility of voluntary reporting and 2 per cent (one State party) suggested another option.

Figure III
Reporting on progress after a review has concluded

(Percentage of respondents)



19. Among the States parties that favoured structured reporting, several made concrete suggestions on the follow-up reporting process. The following specific suggestions were made:

(a) Allowing States parties to voluntarily inform the Group of recent progress, in addition to the structured reporting mechanism;

(b) Focusing, in the follow-up reports, on major implementation challenges, in order to avoid an excessive administrative burden on States parties;

(c) Having concise and focused follow-up reports and using templates for reporting;

(d) Providing for the possibility of having voluntary consultations with non-governmental stakeholders, for example, by including their views in the follow-up reports or inviting them to produce separate reports;

(e) Enhancing the transparency of the follow-up process, for example, by publishing the structured reports on the country profile pages or inviting States parties to explain their decisions not to publish the reports in the sessions of the Implementation Review Group;

(f) Providing for the possibility of producing follow-up reports, in addition to having briefings by States parties during sessions of the Implementation Review Group;

(g) Publishing systematic monitoring reports on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) website and presenting them to the Implementation Review Group;

(h) Ensuring that the monitoring of results is carried out in a timely manner to allow for an efficient process of policy reform;

(i) Including in the progress reports information regarding technical assistance provided, to serve as a resource for other States parties;

(j) Taking into account the different stages of the review process among countries, including by making references to other evaluation processes in order to avoid overlap between review mechanisms;

(k) Having the secretariat produce a calendar indicating which countries were due to complete their reviews and submit progress reports in each calendar year.

20. In addition to structured or voluntary reporting, one respondent suggested another approach, indicating that States parties and other relevant stakeholders, including other international and regional organizations, technical assistance providers and civil society representatives, should be invited by the Implementation Review Group to make presentations on their efforts to implement or support the implementation of the provisions of the Convention under review.

21. In the responses to the 2023 questionnaire and during deliberations in sessions of the Implementation Review Group, a number of suggestions were made in relation to reporting on progress after a review has concluded, but no trends were identified in that regard.

C. Means of gathering information for the purpose of conducting the next phase of country reviews

22. When asked about their preferences for the means used for information-gathering in the next phase of the Mechanism, just over half of all respondents (51 per cent) opted for a choice between using a Word document or similar type of document and an information technology solution, as shown in figure IV. Twenty per cent expressed their preference for using a Word document only, while another 20 per cent preferred an online or offline information technology solution and 10 per cent had no preference.

23. Fifty-seven per cent of respondents indicated that the self-assessment checklist should include space that could be used by other stakeholders to provide information, if they were invited to do so by the State party under review, in line with paragraph 28 of the terms of reference. Other suggestions that States parties made in relation to information-gathering included providing informal guidance or training materials relevant to the self-assessment checklist; additional training by the secretariat; further assistance by the secretariat in completing the self-assessment checklist; and, where available, including the findings and/or recommendations of other review mechanisms (e.g. the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto) in the self-assessment checklist.

24. Additional suggestions made by States parties included using information already provided in previous review cycles; allowing civil society to provide shadow reports directly to reviewers and to the secretariat, if requested, and posting such shadow reports on the country profile pages of the UNODC website at the request of the State party under review; having the secretariat provide a calendar that defined key stages in the information-gathering process at which civil society could engage, as well as making publicly available all the relevant contact information of reviewers and the focal points for the country under review; creating and maintaining a status

dashboard of country reviews, which included a calendar of country visits; and establishing realistic deadlines and requiring States parties under review to be brief and concise in their responses to the self-assessment checklist.

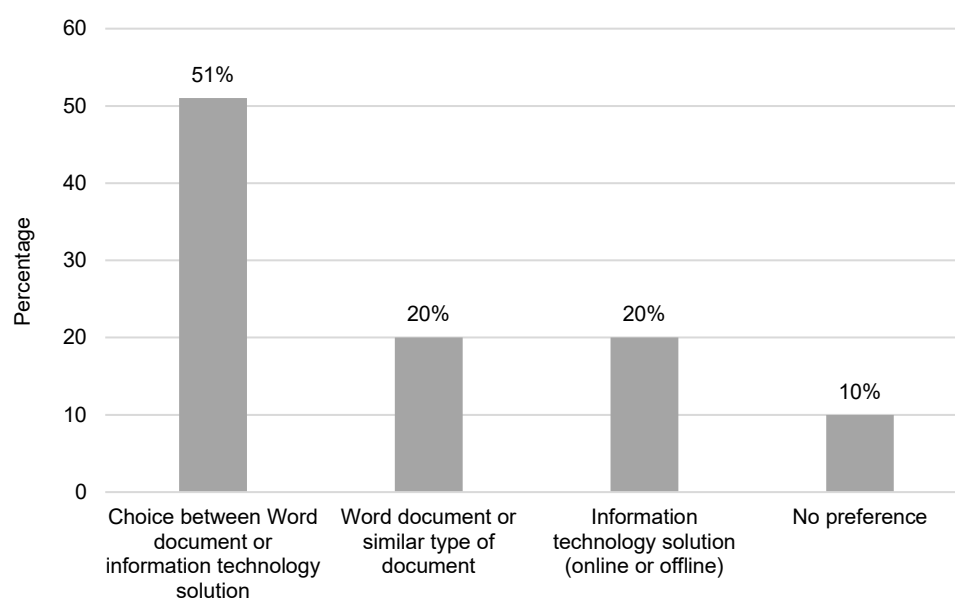
25. While the Implementation Review Group will have an opportunity to discuss the means and modalities for information-gathering for the next review phase in more detail at its first resumed fifteenth session, initial suggestions included simplifying the information-gathering process, ensuring that any tool available was user-friendly, learning from the experience of the Implementation Review Mechanism for the Organized Crime Convention, which used the online platform “RevMod” as an information-gathering tool, and gathering information online as opposed to offline.

26. Many of those suggestions had also been made by speakers at the tenth session of the Conference and at previous sessions of the Implementation Review Group. In particular, speakers had highlighted the need for any tool available to be user-friendly and easy to operate.

Figure IV

Tool used for information-gathering

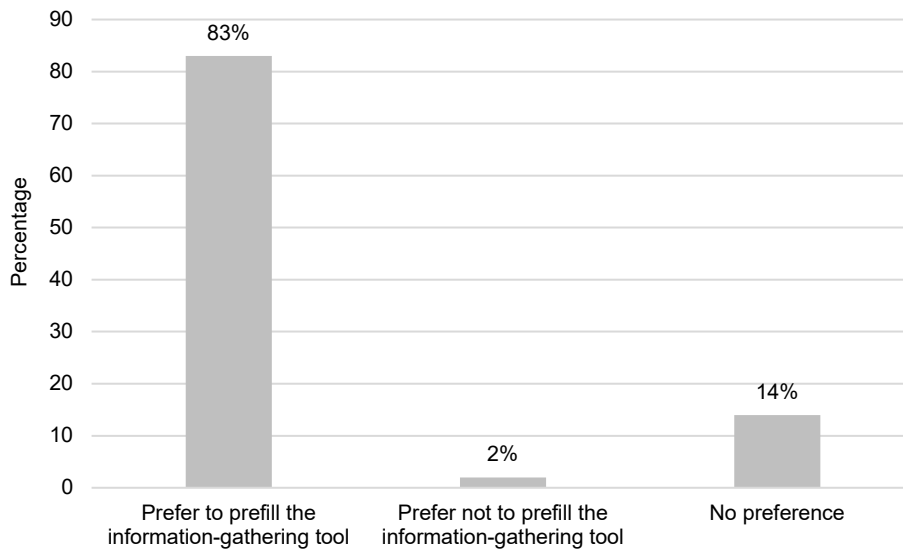
(Percentage of respondents)



27. As shown in figure V, a clear majority of respondents (83 per cent) expressed their preference for prefilling the information-gathering tool with information from the country reviews conducted during the first review phase, to be validated by the State party under review. Meanwhile, 14 per cent had no preference, and 2 per cent preferred not to prefill the information-gathering tool.

Figure V
Prefilling the information-gathering tool

(Percentage of respondents)



D. Outcomes of the reviews: executive summary and country review report

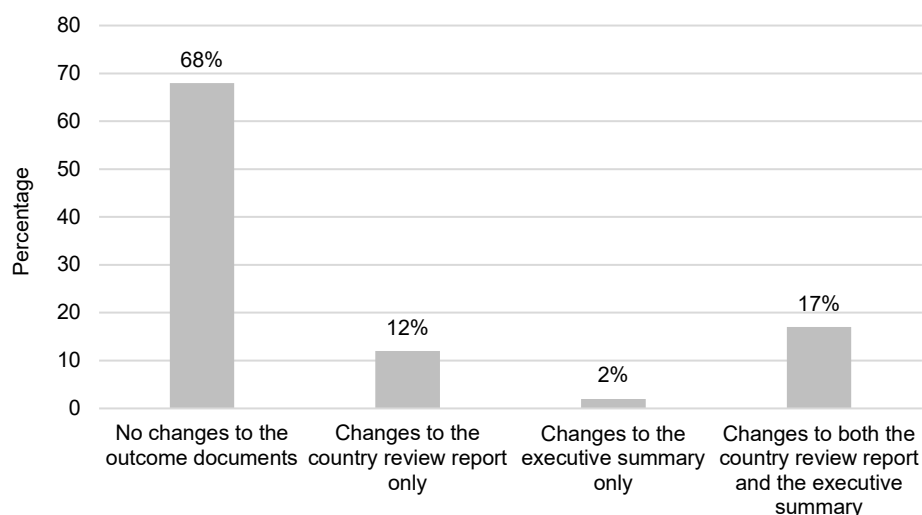
28. As shown in figure VI, over two thirds of respondents (68 per cent, or 28 States parties) indicated that, for the next phase, they would prefer not to change the outcome documents, 17 per cent expressed their preference for changing both the executive summary and the country review report, 12 per cent suggested changing only the country review report and 2 per cent suggested changing only the executive summary. It is worth noting that, among the 28 States parties that indicated that they did not want to change the outcome documents of the reviews, 16 suggested specific changes, with the most frequently suggested option being to shorten the country review report and to either maintain the executive summary as it is or extend it.

29. Other options suggested included making the executive summary longer and more detailed and making it the primary outcome document of the review, streamlining both the country review report and the executive summary, encouraging and allowing States parties to publish the views of civil society on the UNODC country profile pages in a separate report or an annex to the report, improving the templates for both documents, establishing a timeline for the completion of the country review report, and eliminating the country review report and instead making reference to the responses to the self-assessment checklist.

30. Many of those suggestions had also been made by speakers at the tenth session of the Conference, at sessions of the Implementation Review Group and in response to the 2023 questionnaire (see [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/3](#)). However, the percentage of States parties wishing to maintain the documents as they currently are increased from 50 per cent of the respondents in 2023 to 68 per cent of the respondents in 2024, with the caveat that some of the States parties that had indicated a preference for no changes had actually also suggested concrete amendments, and that the number of States parties responding to the questionnaires differed between 2023 and 2024.

Figure VI
Suggestions relating to changes to the outcome documents of the country reviews

(Percentage of respondents)



E. Drawing of lots

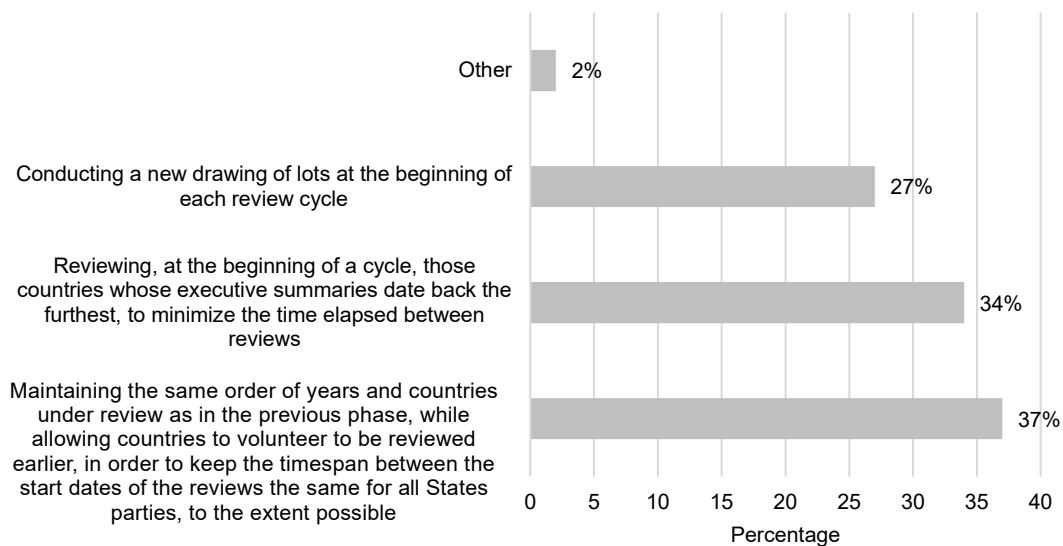
31. With regard to the drawing of lots and the years in which States parties are to be reviewed, the questionnaire included a question regarding the options that States parties would consider most useful.

32. As shown in figure VII, a slight majority of respondents (37 per cent) suggested maintaining the same order of years and countries under review as in the previous review phase, while allowing countries to volunteer to be reviewed earlier, in order to keep the timespan between the start dates of reviews the same for all States parties, to the extent possible. Another 34 per cent of respondents suggested conducting reviews, at the beginning of a cycle, of those countries whose executive summaries dated back the furthest, in order to minimize the time elapsed between reviews, while 27 per cent preferred to conduct a new drawing of lots at the beginning of each review cycle. Meanwhile, 2 per cent (one State party) indicated that the drawing of lots would depend on which elements were under review in each respective cycle of future review phases, to ensure that only States parties whose current second cycle reviews had been completed would be included in the drawing of lots if the review of elements from chapters II and V of the Convention was to be undertaken early in the next review phase.

Figure VII

Preferred options for the drawing of lots

(Percentage of respondents)

**F. Other suggestions related to the next review phase**

33. States parties also made other suggestions related to the next review phase. In particular, respondents suggested the following:

- (a) Ensuring the designation of governmental experts well ahead of a review;
- (b) Establishing a multidisciplinary team in the State party under review to gather and provide information;
- (c) Allowing non-governmental organizations with status as approved observers to the Conference to participate in the meetings of the Implementation Review Group, or limiting them to assisting Governments;
- (d) Revising the rules concerning the briefings for non-governmental organizations to allow participants in the briefings to speak about the full range of participation of civil society, the review process and the follow-up process, including at the national level;
- (e) Revisiting the indicative time frames of the reviews;
- (f) Increasing the time allotted for the country visits, and supplementing them with virtual meetings before and after the country visits take place;
- (g) Increasing transparency and inclusivity throughout the review process;
- (h) Having States parties focus on the chapters of the Convention under review in their interventions in the sessions of the Implementation Review Group.

III. Key issues to consider for the next review phase

34. This section presents key issues identified and suggestions made by States parties regarding the next review phase that the Implementation Review Group may wish to consider.

A. Scope and thematic sequence

35. As mentioned above, a large majority of responding States parties (81 per cent) considered that the next review phase should include a focus on the follow-up to the

outcomes of the first review phase, either alone or in combination with reviewing the practical or effective implementation of the provisions. However, there was some variation with regard to what States parties understood the follow-up review to entail. Key issues mentioned by States parties in that context included the following:

(a) Further reflection on the thematic scope of the follow-up process, with the possibility to include, in addition to new developments, a review of the implementation of recommendations issued in the first review phase and/or a review of the implementation of updated good practices and recommendations;

(b) A greater focus on reviewing the practical or effective implementation of the provisions, in combination with a follow-up process, without repeating the review;

(c) The possibility of reviewing the implementation of each chapter separately or of dividing the review of the implementation of chapter II into parts, given its breadth and complexity;

(d) The possibility of reviewing the implementation of chapter VI, on technical assistance and information exchange, of the Convention.

36. Given the overall trends described above, the Implementation Review Group may wish to consider whether the scope and thematic sequence of the next review phase should be modified, and to consider what form a follow-up process to the previous review phase and a review of practical implementation or effectiveness should take.

B. Reporting on progress after a country review has concluded

37. In addition to the provision of information in the self-assessment checklist on follow-up since the previous country review, as contemplated in paragraph 40 of the terms of reference of the Implementation Review Mechanism, the Implementation Review Group may wish to consider the procedures and modalities for reporting, outside of the review process, on progress achieved after a review has concluded. The Group, in its deliberations, may wish to consider the suggestion made by the majority of responding States parties (71 per cent) to establish a more structured process for reporting on measures taken to address the review outcomes, as well as other suggestions on the scope and modalities of follow-up reporting.

C. Information-gathering

38. The Implementation Review Group may wish to consider whether, in the reviews in the next phase, a Word document or similar document or an information technology tool should be used to gather information, or whether States parties should be given a choice between these options. In addition, the Group may wish to consider the following suggestions:

(a) Having the secretariat provide assistance and training in relation to the self-assessment checklist;

(b) Considering whether and how information already provided in previous review cycles should be used;

(c) Including space on the self-assessment checklist that could be used by other stakeholders to provide information, if they were invited to do so by the State party under review, in line with paragraph 28 of the terms of reference of the Mechanism; allowing civil society to provide shadow reports directly to reviewers and the secretariat, if requested; and posting such reports on the country profile pages of the UNODC website at the request of the State party under review;

(d) Establishing a calendar that defines key stages in the information-gathering process at which civil society could engage, as well as making publicly available all

relevant contact information of reviewers and the focal points for the country under review;

(e) Creating and maintaining a status dashboard of country reviews, which would include a calendar of country visits.

D. Outcome documents

39. Key issues that the Implementation Review Group may wish to consider in relation to the outcome documents of the country reviews include the following:

(a) Making the executive summary longer and more detailed and making it the primary outcome document of the review;

(b) Encouraging and allowing States parties to publish the views of civil society on the UNODC country profile pages as a separate report or as an annex to the report;

(c) Eliminating the country review report and instead making reference to the responses to the self-assessment checklist.

E. Drawing of lots

40. The Group may wish to consider the preferences expressed regarding the options and modalities for the drawing of lots for the next phase to ensure the efficiency of the next phase, including the possibility of using an automated tool for the drawing of lots (see [CAC/COSP/IRG/2024/10](#) for more detailed information). The following options were supported by States parties:

(a) Maintaining the same order of years and countries under review as in the previous review phase, while allowing countries to volunteer to be reviewed earlier, in order to keep the timespan between the start dates of reviews the same for all States parties, to the extent possible (37 per cent of respondents in favour);

(b) Reviewing, at the beginning of a cycle, those countries whose executive summaries date back the furthest, in order to minimize the time elapsed between reviews (34 per cent of respondents in favour);

(c) Conducting a new drawing of lots at the beginning of each review cycle (27 per cent of respondents in favour).

IV. Next steps

41. With a view to facilitating the discussions of the Implementation Review Group, the secretariat will continue to collect the views of States parties on the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism and its next review phase and update the statistics and recommendations contained in the present report on the basis of the views expressed, so as to keep the Group informed of the evolving viewpoints of States parties on the next phase of the Mechanism.
