



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

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Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery

Vienna, 12–14 June 2024

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Overview of progress made in the implementation of mandates.
3. Thematic discussion:
 - (a) Good practices and challenges with respect to beneficial ownership information in order to detect, deter and prevent acts of corruption and to enhance the recovery and return of assets in accordance with the Convention;
 - (b) Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation: illicit financial flows and challenges, obstacles and barriers to international cooperation.
4. Technical assistance.
5. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Organizational matters

(a) Opening of the meeting

The meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery will be opened on Wednesday, 12 June 2024, at 10 a.m., at the Vienna International Centre, M-Building, Boardroom B/M1. The meeting will be held in person.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda for the meeting was prepared in accordance with resolution 10/6 of the Conference of the States Parties to United Nations Convention against Corruption, entitled “Enhancing the use of beneficial ownership information to strengthen asset recovery”, and Conference resolution 9/2, entitled “Our common



commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthening international cooperation: follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption”.

The proposed organization of work for the Working Group (see annex) was prepared in line with the guidance contained in the workplan for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference, which was approved by the Bureau of the Conference on 23 February 2024, in order to enable consideration of agenda items 2 to 4 jointly with the Implementation Review Group and the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

2. Overview of progress made in the implementation of mandates

The mandate of the Working Group, as set out in Conference resolution 1/4, consists of the following functions:

- (a) Assisting the Conference in developing cumulative knowledge in the area of asset recovery;
- (b) Assisting the Conference in encouraging cooperation among relevant existing bilateral and multilateral initiatives, and contributing to the implementation of the related provisions of the Convention;
- (c) Facilitating the exchange of information by identifying good practices and disseminating them among States;
- (d) Building confidence and encouraging cooperation between requesting and requested States by bringing together relevant competent authorities and anti-corruption bodies and practitioners involved in asset recovery and the fight against corruption and by serving as a forum for them;
- (e) Facilitating the exchange of ideas among States on the expeditious return of assets;
- (f) Assisting the Conference in identifying the capacity-building needs, including long-term needs, of States parties in the prevention and detection of transfers of proceeds of corruption and income or benefits derived from such proceeds and in asset recovery.

To facilitate its deliberations on agenda item 2, the Working Group may wish to draw upon the information provided in the note by the Secretariat on the activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery and the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote asset recovery ([CAC/COSP/2023/14](#)), which was submitted to the Conference at its tenth session, held in Atlanta, United States of America, from 11 to 15 December 2023. In view of the recent presentation of that information to the Conference, the secretariat will provide an oral update to that note, including on the status of implementation of the mandates adopted by the Conference relating to asset recovery and the recommendations of the Working Group.

The attention of the Working Group is also drawn to the thematic report prepared by the Secretariat entitled “Implementation of chapter V (Asset recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and regional supplement” ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2024/6](#)) and to the thematic report prepared by the Secretariat entitled “Implementation of provisions of a cross-cutting nature in chapter II (Preventive measures) and chapter V (Asset recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and regional supplement” ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2024/7](#)).

Agenda item 2 will be discussed together with item 4 (a) of the agenda for the fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group and with item 2 of the agenda for the thirteenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption at joint meetings.

3. Thematic discussion

(a) **Good practices and challenges with respect to beneficial ownership information in order to detect, deter and prevent acts of corruption and to enhance the recovery and return of assets in accordance with the Convention**

In its resolution 10/6, the Conference decided that the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery and the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption should, within their mandates and without duplicating the work of other relevant international organizations, include in their workplans for the period 2024–2025 the topic of good practices and challenges with respect to beneficial ownership information in order to detect, deter and prevent acts of corruption and to enhance the recovery and return of assets in accordance with the Convention.

In the same resolution, the Conference urged States parties to cooperate closely with one another, bearing in mind the need to provide one another the widest measures of international cooperation, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and domestic law, to facilitate the efficient exchange of adequate, accurate and up-to-date beneficial ownership information in a timely manner and, where appropriate and feasible, through the use of digital and innovative technologies, including to facilitate the recovery and return of assets. The Conference also encouraged States parties, with the assistance of the secretariat, to share, on a voluntary basis, examples of good practices in promoting beneficial ownership information transparency to facilitate the recovery and return of assets, in accordance with the Convention and domestic law, and financial disclosure requirements for public officials, while avoiding the duplication of work undertaken by other international forums.

The Working Group will have before it a note by the Secretariat entitled “Reference document on good practices, challenges and lessons learned with respect to beneficial ownership transparency” ([CAC/COSP/WG.2/2024/2](#)).

States parties may wish to come prepared to discuss good practices and challenges with respect to beneficial ownership information in order to detect, deter and prevent acts of corruption and to enhance the recovery and return of assets in accordance with the Convention. States parties may also wish to discuss the following topics: (a) good practices and challenges in the exchange of beneficial ownership information, including, where appropriate and feasible, through the use of digital and innovative technologies; and (b) how beneficial ownership information can enhance the recovery and return of assets in accordance with the Convention.

To facilitate the deliberations of the Working Group under item 3 (a), a panel discussion on the above-mentioned topics will also be held.

(b) **Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation: illicit financial flows and challenges, obstacles and barriers to international cooperation**

At its special session held from 2 to 4 June 2021, the General Assembly adopted the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”. Member States, *inter alia*, committed to implementing the political declaration and invited the Conference, as the treaty body with prime responsibility for promoting and reviewing the implementation of the Convention, to follow up and build on the declaration.

Furthermore, in its resolution 9/2, entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthening international cooperation: follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, the Conference directed its subsidiary bodies,

within their mandates, to take appropriate measures to follow up on the political declaration.

A workplan for the subsidiary bodies for 2023–2026 on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation was approved by the Bureau of the Conference in April 2023. Accordingly, the expert meeting is expected to discuss appropriate measures to follow up on the political declaration. The topic of the discussion will be illicit financial flows and challenges, obstacles and barriers to international cooperation.¹

In the political declaration, Member States recognized that preventing and countering corruption and illicit financial flows and recovering and returning confiscated assets in accordance with the Convention could contribute to effective resource mobilization, poverty eradication, sustainable development and the enjoyment of all human rights. They committed to instituting comprehensive domestic regulatory and supervisory regimes for banks and non-bank financial institutions, including natural or legal persons that provide formal or informal services for the transmission of money or value, or other bodies particularly susceptible to money-laundering, in order to deter and detect all forms of money-laundering in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, including when it concerned illicit financial flows. Member States also acknowledged that effective and timely communication and cooperation between competent authorities could be an important factor in curbing the cross-border movement of persons involved in the commission of corruption offences and property, which includes funds, derived from the commission of corruption offences, and could also contribute to their efforts to prevent and counter illicit financial flows derived from corruption.

To facilitate the deliberations of the Working Group under item 3 (b), a panel discussion will be organized on illicit financial flows and challenges, obstacles and barriers to international cooperation. The Working Group will also have before it a note by the Secretariat entitled “Discussion guide on illicit financial flows and challenges, obstacles and barriers to international cooperation: measures taken by States parties in follow-up to the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption” (CAC/COSP/WG.2/2024/3).

Agenda item 3 will be discussed together with item 4 (b)² of the agenda for the fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group and with item 3 of the agenda for the thirteenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption at joint meetings.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat entitled “Reference document on good practices, challenges and lessons learned with respect to beneficial ownership transparency” (CAC/COSP/WG.2/2024/2)

Note by the Secretariat entitled “Discussion guide on illicit financial flows and challenges, obstacles and barriers to international cooperation: measures taken by States parties in follow-up to the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption” (CAC/COSP/WG.2/2024/3)

4. Technical assistance

In its resolution 7/1, the Conference requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and invited the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative to

¹ In past sessions, the Working Group considered measures to follow up on the political declaration under a separate agenda item. To facilitate the organization of joint meetings with other subsidiary bodies of the Conference, these deliberations are now taking place under the agenda item entitled “Thematic discussion”.

² The consideration of agenda item 6 by the Implementation Review Group will be subsumed under items 4 (b) and 5 of the agenda for its fifteenth session.

continue to provide and develop capacity-building initiatives on asset recovery, including knowledge products and technical tools, upon request and subject to extrabudgetary resources, in response to technical assistance needs identified during country reviews.

In addition, in its resolution 10/6, the Conference requested UNODC to continue providing technical assistance, capacity-building and material support, upon request, to States parties, on the basis of their needs and priorities, with regard to establishing and implementing domestic beneficial ownership information mechanisms in order to facilitate the recovery and return of assets, in accordance with the Convention and domestic law.

In that regard, the secretariat and the StAR Initiative will provide an oral update on technical assistance activities conducted since the last meeting of the Working Group.

States parties may wish to brief the Working Group on their efforts relevant to capacity-building and technical assistance in the area of asset recovery and to discuss their cooperation in that regard with providers of technical assistance, including the StAR Initiative and UNODC.

To facilitate the Working Group's deliberations on the matter, a panel discussion will be held on technical assistance in relation to chapters IV and V of the Convention.

Agenda item 4 will be discussed together with item 5 of the agenda for the fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group and with item 4 of the agenda for the thirteenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption at joint meetings.

5. Adoption of the report

The Working Group is to adopt a report on its meeting, the draft of which will be prepared by the secretariat.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Wednesday, 12 June 2024		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	1 (a)	Opening of the meeting
	1 (b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Overview of progress made in the implementation of mandates ^a
3–6 p.m.	3 (a)	Thematic discussion: good practices and challenges with respect to beneficial ownership information in order to detect, deter and prevent acts of corruption and to enhance the recovery and return of assets in accordance with the Convention ^b
	3 (a)	Thematic discussion: good practices and challenges with respect to beneficial ownership information (<i>continued</i>) ^b
Thursday, 13 June 2024		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	3 (b)	Thematic discussion: follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation: illicit financial flows and challenges, obstacles and barriers to international cooperation ^b
3–6 p.m.	4	Technical assistance ^c
Friday, 14 June 2024		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	4	Technical assistance (<i>continued</i>) ^c
3–6 p.m.	5	Adoption of the report

^a Agenda item 2 will be discussed together with item 4 (a) of the agenda for the fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group and with item 2 of the agenda for the thirteenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption at joint meetings.

^b Agenda item 3 will be discussed together with items 4 (b) of the agenda for the fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group and with item 3 of the agenda for the thirteenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption at joint meetings.

^c Agenda item 4 will be discussed together with item 5 of the agenda for the fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group and with item 4 of the agenda for the thirteenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption at joint meetings.