



Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Distr.: General
14 November 2012

Original: English

Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance

Vienna, 17 and 18 October 2012

Report on the meeting of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance held in Vienna on 17 and 18 October 2012

I. Introduction

1. The Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance was established pursuant to decision 2/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In its decision 4/3, the Conference decided that the Working Group should be a constant element of the Conference. The Working Group held a meeting on 17 and 18 October 2012, during the sixth session of the Conference.

2. Furthermore, in its resolution 5/7, the Conference requested, inter alia, the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance and the Working Group on International Cooperation to examine the relevant recommendations and outcomes of the expert group on protection against trafficking in cultural property established in the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and to make recommendations for consideration by the Conference. Accordingly, a joint discussion on cultural property of the two working groups was held on 18 October 2012. The outcome of that joint discussion is included in chapter V of the present report.

II. Recommendations

3. At its meeting held on 17 October 2012, the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance adopted a number of recommendations, which were adopted by the Conference in resolution 6/4.¹

¹ See CTOC/COP/2012/15, chap. I, sect. A.



III. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening and duration of the meeting

4. On 17 and 18 October, the Working Group held four meetings. The Chair of the Working Group made an opening statement. Introductory statements were made by representatives of the Secretariat on items 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the agenda, which was adopted at its first meeting, on 17 October 2012.² The joint discussion on cultural property of the Working Group on Technical Assistance and the Working Group on International Cooperation was co-chaired by the Chairs of the two working groups.

5. Statements were made by representatives of the following States: Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States of America.

B. Documentation

6. The documents before the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance are contained in the annex to the present report.

IV. Summary of the deliberations

A. Follow-up to the recommendations adopted by the Working Group at its meeting held on 19 and 20 October 2010

7. In his statement, the Chair of the Working Group referred to Conference resolution 5/6 and the need to share views on the implementation of the recommendations contained therein. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made a statement on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat to implement the relevant recommendations.

8. Many speakers acknowledged the technical assistance provided by UNODC in the following areas: (a) the drafting of national legal frameworks on extradition and countering terrorism and money-laundering, (b) establishing central authorities, (c) implementing national strategies to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and (d) delivering training sessions for members of the judiciary, prosecutors, investigators and the staff members of detention centres and central authorities.

9. Speakers also acknowledged the cooperation between UNODC field offices and their countries and noted the comprehensive approach adopted by UNODC in developing its thematic and regional programmes.

10. Some speakers described their national experiences in preventing and combating emerging forms of transnational organized crime, including by establishing specialized units focusing on environmental crimes, with an emphasis

² CTOC/COP/WG.2/2012/1.

on fighting illegal mining. The need to ensure a more coordinated approach in combating financial and banking crimes was also noted.

11. Speakers commented on the need to focus on the delivery of technical assistance to States to prevent and combat drug trafficking. The importance of strengthening cooperation between Latin American and African countries was emphasized.

12. Some speakers noted the importance of ensuring a multiagency approach in developing and implementing national strategies to combat transnational organized crime.

13. Speakers underlined the need to strengthen cooperation between Governments and the private sector in the fight against transnational organized crime and to improve coordination among donors in relation to the delivery of technical assistance.

B. Development of national strategies to address transnational organized crime

14. A representative of the Secretariat elaborated on possible approaches for a more comprehensive and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

15. Speakers outlined the national strategies of their countries in combating transnational organized crime and underlined the need to ensure inter-agency coordination in the development and implementation of such strategies. The importance of including key policy objectives, organized crime assessments and response plans in national strategies was also mentioned.

16. Some speakers provided examples of national joint committees, composed of members of civil society organizations and Government representatives, established with a view to developing strategies to combat transnational organized crime, including the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and money-laundering.

C. Identification of technical assistance needs and coordination of the delivery of technical assistance

17. The Chair recalled the centrality of technical assistance in the context of the implementation of the Convention. A representative of the Secretariat provided an overview of the work that UNODC had carried out at the global, regional and country levels.

18. Speakers referred to the importance of meaningful and cost-effective technical assistance and underlined the need to carry out assessments of technical assistance projects. The need to ensure coordination among donors in the provision of technical assistance was underlined.

19. The possibility of reviewing the structure of the Working Group was discussed. Some speakers suggested that, in order to reinvigorate its deliberations, thematic discussions on specific topics, such as financial intelligence and illegal

mining, could be held. The establishment of thematic subgroups and a focus on the specific provisions of the Convention were also mentioned.

D. Development of technical assistance tools

20. A representative of the Secretariat made a presentation on the technical assistance tools that UNODC had developed in cooperation with Member States and other international organizations.

21. The importance of wider dissemination of the technical assistance tools, including by translating them into as many languages as possible, was stressed. Speakers reported on past and ongoing support for the technical assistance tools in various areas and expressed their continuing support for the work of UNODC in developing, disseminating and utilizing such tools.

22. Speakers commented on the usefulness of technical assistance tools in the area of international judicial cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, adding that such international cooperation should be coordinated.

V. Outcome of the joint discussion on cultural property

23. During the joint discussion on cultural property, held on 18 October 2012, the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance and the Working Group on International Cooperation:

(a) Bearing in mind the central authorities referred to in article 18, paragraph 13, of the Organized Crime Convention, invited Member States that had not yet done so to designate contact points to facilitate international cooperation with regard to the application of the Convention, for the purpose of preventing and combating trafficking in cultural property, and to report such information to UNODC;

(b) Taking note of article 31, paragraph 5, of the Convention, requested UNODC, in coordination with relevant international organizations, to assist Member States in raising awareness of the issue of trafficking in cultural property and related offences at the regional and international levels, including through workshops, seminars and similar events;

(c) Requested Member States and invited relevant international organizations to provide data to UNODC on trafficking in cultural property, such as data on the links between trafficking in cultural property and transnational organized crime, estimates of illicit money involved and good practices in and challenges to combating and preventing that activity;

(d) Requested UNODC to solicit such information from Member States and relevant international organizations, to analyse the data upon receipt and to report to the Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance;

(e) Requested UNODC to collect information on the contact points of Member States focused on preventing and combating trafficking in cultural property and to include them in the directory of competent national authorities;

(f) Urged Member States to consider entering into bilateral agreements for preventing and combating trafficking in cultural property, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the model treaty for the prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property.

24. Under agenda item 7, the Working Group recommended that the Conference of the Parties consider:

(a) Requesting UNODC to continue to promote the use of the Convention to combat trafficking in cultural property. In that regard, UNODC could, upon request, provide technical assistance for the application, in particular, of the international cooperation provisions of the Convention to trafficking in cultural property;

(b) Encouraging States parties to implement the Convention in respect of trafficking in cultural property, including the provisions on international cooperation.

Annex**List of documents before the Working Group**

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CTOC/COP/WG.2/2012/1	1 (b)	Provisional agenda and annotations
CTOC/COP/WG.2/2012/2	3	Note by the Secretariat on the development of national strategies to address transnational organized crime
CTOC/COP/WG.2/2012/3- CTOC/COP/WG.3/2012/4	7	Report of the Secretariat on the application of the Organized Crime Convention by States parties with respect to criminal offences against cultural property
CTOC/COP/2012/7	5	Report of the Secretariat on technical assistance provided to States in the application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to new forms and dimensions of transnational organized crime
CTOC/COP/2012/9	2	Report of the Secretariat on activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote the implementation of the provisions on international cooperation in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
CTOC/COP/2012/10	4 and 5	Report of the Secretariat on the provision of technical assistance to States in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto
UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.1/2012/4	6	Report on the meeting of the expert group on protection against trafficking in cultural property held in Vienna from 27 to 29 June 2012
UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.1/2009/2	6	Report on the meeting of the expert group on protection against trafficking in cultural property held in Vienna from 24 to 26 November 2009