



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

Distr.: Limited
16 November 2012

Original: English

Implementation Review Group

Resumed third session

Vienna, 14-16 November 2012

Draft report

Addendum

V. Financial and budgetary matters

1. For its consideration of agenda item 4 on financial and budgetary matters, the Group was provided with information on expenditures incurred so far in the first three years of the Mechanism and on resources received for the biennium 2012-2013, both from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions, making reference to CAC/COSP/IRG/2012/10.
2. The Secretary recalled resolution 3/1 of the Conference of the States Parties which states that the Mechanism requires a budget that ensures its efficient, continued and impartial functioning. He also recalled resolution 64/237 of the General Assembly which requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Mechanism was adequately funded.
3. The Secretary then provided detailed information on expenditures incurred from the Regular Budget for 2010-2011, as well as interim expenditures from the Regular Budget for 2012-2013. He noted in particular that the number of pages of official documentation per year for the IRG (100) as approved under the Regular Budget had already been exceeded for 2012-2013, and that the Secretariat was working with UNOV Conference Management Services on whether the additional requirements could be absorbed within existing regular budget resources, or whether extrabudgetary contributions were to be provided.
4. The Secretariat then provided detailed information on interim extrabudgetary expenditures for the first three years of the Mechanism, comparing current costs to estimates, and highlighting that additional expenditures were still expected to be incurred in years 1, 2 and 3. He also indicated that, as recommended in Resolution 4/1 of the COSP/UNCAC, 2 new posts (1 P3 and a G staff) had been created to work on the analysis of the technical assistance needs identified through the Mechanism and devise strategies for a coordinated implementation of technical activities, projects



and programmes. Since the COSP did not recommend that these requirements be funded from the RB in 2012-2013, XB resources had been used to finance these posts.

5. The Secretary also updated the Group on the procurement exercise launched to secure the services of translation companies for the translation of working documentation of the Review Mechanism. New contracts were being issued for several language combinations, which may entail an increase of the overall translations costs for working documentation of the IRG. It was however expected that the quality would be higher and that the time needed for translation would be shortened. Actual figures would be provided at the next IRG session. The remaining combinations of languages would continue to be outsourced through UNODC field offices, as per the practice in the first three years of the Mechanism. UNOV/CMS was proposing to assist in the processing of the working documentation, and their exact workload would depend on the number of documents being outsourced through the new contracts. Actual figures would be provided at the next IRG session.

6. The Secretary recalled that, at its fourth session, the COSP did not recommend that the new requirements that arose during 2012-2013 (two new posts for TA analysis and 460 pages of additional official documentation for the sessions of the IRG) be funded from the Regular Budget. It however requested the Secretariat to further examine the shortfall identified to determine whether it could be addressed through cost efficiencies or voluntary contributions and to take that shortfall into account when submitting the Regular Budget submission for the biennium 2014-2015.

7. The Secretary then expressed appreciation for the voluntary contributions made by States to support the Mechanism in the first three years of its functioning. He highlighted again that there was however no guarantee that a sufficient level of voluntary contributions remains to be available to ensure sustainability of the Mechanism. As the experience to date in trying to raise funds for the mechanism had demonstrated, voluntary contributions were unpredictable, and without a minimum level of funding being provided, it might not be possible to ensure successful reviews.

8. A representative from UNOV Financial Resources Management Services then presented detailed information on the current process leading to the establishment of the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015, presenting two scenarios depending on whether the new requirements that arose during 2012-2013 (two new posts on TA analysis and 460 pages of additional official documentation for the sessions of the IRG) would indeed be included in the Regular budget 2014-2015, or would remain to be covered by voluntary contributions.

9. Speakers expressed their satisfaction for the work of the Secretariat and for the clarity of the document before them, requesting however that to the extent possible, budgetary information be provided ahead of the meeting in the six official languages.

10. Speakers expressed the view that the two new posts on technical assistance analysis should continue to be covered from extrabudgetary contributions, in particular as a surplus had been identified at the end of year 3 in the document presented to the IRG. More importantly, in their view, technical assistance was to be seen in a broader context than the Review Mechanism, and should therefore not be

linked to the resources allocated to the Review Mechanism under the Regular Budget. Other speakers indicated that as per resolution 1/1, the budgetary requirements necessary for the full functioning of the Review Mechanism, and in particular the posts and related general operating expenses, as well as the costs of functioning of the Group (including official documentation), was to be covered from the regular budget.

11. The Secretariat indicated that the preparation of thematic reports and regional addenda analysing technical assistance needs was a full part of the Review Mechanism, as per the Terms of Reference of the Review Mechanism. Based on that understanding, the need for two new posts had been brought to the attention of the IRG and included in the Regular Budget submission for 2014-2015. It also indicated that the additional number of pages for the translation of official documents for the IRG was needed to cover the increased number of executive summaries, the thematic reports, regional addenda and other background documents. He also indicated that the surplus identified so far at the end of year 3 was based on estimates, and not on actual costs, and could therefore not be considered as final until all expenditures of the first 3 years had been covered.

12. One speaker requested clarifications on resolution 1/1 of the IRG which stated that the costs of communication and translation from and into the working language or languages of the Mechanism designated for individual reviews should be covered from the regular budget. The Secretariat clarified that it had not been possible to include these requirements in the regular budget as originally planned, due to the difficulty of planning the different language combinations in advance and to the impossibility of UNOV translation services to absorb such a high workload. In fact, outsourcing the translations of working documentation through UNODC field offices also proved more cost-efficient.

13. Further discussions on budgetary matters would be held at the next IRG session in May 2013 and the fifth session of the Conference of the States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in November 2013.

VI. Other matters

14. Speakers made reference to the briefing for non-governmental organizations held at the margins of the Group at its third session. A number of speakers welcomed the organization and structure of the briefing and considered it a useful first step in the implementation of resolution 4/6.

15. The Group provided guidance to the Secretariat on the organization of the next briefing, to be held at the margins of the 4th session of the Group in May 2013. The invitations to the relevant non-governmental organizations were to contain specific language on expectations and the contributions to be made. A copy of resolution 4/6 was to be attached to the invitation, in order to fully ensure compliance with its terms. When initiating the briefing, the Secretariat was to remind participants to respect the terms of resolution 4/6. The briefing was to be structured in such a way as to allow participants from non-governmental organizations to make their contributions at the outset. The timing of the briefing with regard to the Group's programme of work was discussed, including with a view to submitting a summary of the briefing to the Group at the same session, as foreseen in resolution 4/6, and

taking into account the useful practice of holding trilateral meetings of individual country reviews.

16. Some speakers recommended that measures be taken to encourage the participation of a more diverse range of organizations and to ensure invitation of relevant organizations. In order to achieve a broad participation of relevant NGOs at future briefings to be held after the fifth session of the Conference, the Group requested the Secretariat to work with the focal points of the States parties under review and Permanent Missions in order to allow for inviting a wider range of relevant non-governmental organizations to the Conference of the States Parties at its fifth session. One delegation requested that the documentation for the briefing not include shadow reports.

VII. Agenda for the fourth session of the Implementation Review Group

17. [...]

VIII. Adoption of the report

18. On 16 November 2012, the Implementation Review Group adopted the report on its resumed third session (CAC/COSP/IRG/2012/L.1/Add.4-7).
