



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

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Agenda item 3

Technical assistance

Draft decision submitted by the Open-ended Interim Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance

[...]

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

Recalling article 29 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,¹ which sets forth the obligation of States parties to promote technical assistance and training,

Also recalling Conference decisions 2/6 and 3/4 of its second and third sessions,

Taking note with appreciation of the information on and proposals for technical assistance activities developed by the Secretariat contained in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on proposals for technical assistance activities designed to meet the needs identified in the priority areas determined by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,² following the five priority areas determined by the Conference at its third session,

Noting the discussion at the round table held in Vienna on 14 October 2008 to facilitate the exchange of information on technical assistance being provided and the promotion of closer coordination in the delivery of such assistance,

1. *Urges* donor countries and technical assistance providers, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to take into consideration the needs identified in the analytical reports on the formulation of technical assistance activities, in conjunction with host Governments, and in particular the need for legislative assistance and training of criminal justice practitioners;

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

² CTOC/COP/2008/16.



2. *Welcomes* the analysis by the Secretariat of the technical assistance needs based on the questionnaires and the needs and priorities of requesting States;
3. *Notes with appreciation* the specialized expertise of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the network of experts upon which it can call in areas such as legal assistance;
4. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the technical assistance provided makes the maximum impact, in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and avoids duplication and overlap;
5. *Recognizes* that the following principles should underpin mechanisms for ensuring coordination and should be taken into account:
 - (a) The importance of recipient States carrying out needs analyses, taking into account information given in response to questionnaires and the discussions and views expressed at the sessions of the Conference;
 - (b) The importance of technical assistance providers taking such needs analyses into account when designing programmes of assistance;
 - (c) The need for a partnership approach, common goals, shared responsibility and commitment on the part of those providing and receiving technical assistance, including non-governmental organizations;
 - (d) The need for effective coordination within States providing and receiving assistance;
 - (e) The need for coordination between donors, building on existing local, regional and multilateral mechanisms;
6. *Emphasizes* the importance of maintaining a continuous flow of information to the Office, including through responses to questionnaires authorized by the Conference, in order to ensure the reflection of the latest information on technical assistance activities and needs;
7. *Recalls* the need for technical assistance providers to raise awareness and to emphasize the importance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto³ and the role of the Office in implementing those instruments;
8. *Stresses* the importance of sharing the results of evaluation of technical assistance provided so that there is a greater common understanding of what works and what does not;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat and other technical assistance providers to take into account ongoing regional and bilateral technical assistance efforts with a view to creating areas of synergy and leveraging resources;
10. *Invites* providers of technical assistance, together with the Office and, as appropriate, its field offices, to strengthen coordination efforts in host countries, noting, in particular, the potential for the Office to act as a coordinator and facilitator of requests for and the provision of technical assistance, in order to ensure the effectiveness of such assistance;

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

11. *Urges* technical assistance providers to partner with the Office when providing assistance for the purpose of building the capacity of recipient States to implement the Convention and its Protocols, and to raise awareness of those instruments;

12. *Requests* the Open-ended Interim Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance, taking as a basis the above-mentioned recommendations as well as the proposals contained in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on proposals for technical assistance activities designed to meet the needs identified in the priority areas determined by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,⁴ to further reflect on ways and means to strengthen and better coordinate the scheme of technical assistance for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and submit recommendations in that regard to the Conference at its fifth session;

13. *Requests* the Secretariat to organize an intersessional meeting of the Working Group before the end of 2009;

14. *Urges* donor countries and relevant organizations to allocate funds to the general-purpose fund of the Office in order to improve its capacity as a provider and coordinator of technical assistance;

15. *Urges* States parties and States signatories to the Convention to provide voluntary contributions to the Office for its technical assistance activities in order to further the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, in particular with respect to the above-mentioned recommendations as well as the proposals contained in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat.

⁴ CTOC/COP/2008/16.