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Technical assistance

Selected highlights from two years of technical assistance in support of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The delivery of technical assistance to meet the identified needs of countries is pivotal to the successful and consistent implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In considering a global response to such needs, it is important to bear in mind articles 60 and 62 of the Convention, under chapter VI (“Technical assistance and information exchange”).
2. The present note provides an overview of the response of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to identified technical assistance needs since the drafting of the background paper on technical assistance in support of the implementation of the Convention (CAC/COSP/2011/10 and Corr.1) for the fourth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 24 to 28 October 2011. It also highlights selected technical assistance activities implemented since August 2011, when the previous background paper was submitted and thus complements the notes by the Secretariat on technical assistance in support of the implementation of the Convention presented to the third and fourth sessions of the Implementation Review Group (CAC/COSP/IRG/2012/3 and CAC/COSP/IRG/2013/2 and Corr.1).
3. At its third session, the Conference decided to fold the mandate of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Technical Assistance into the work of the Implementation Review Group (resolution 3/1). When analysing the

* CAC/COSP/2013/1.



technical assistance needs identified through the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as well as the technical assistance that had been requested, either to prepare for the reviews or to be provided in the context of the review process or as a direct ad hoc follow-up (e.g. the substantive review of draft legislation), the sheer magnitude of the needs demonstrate the direct link between the availability of technical assistance and the ability of countries to fully implement the Convention. That, in turn, clearly confirms the rationale behind the decision taken by the Conference to bring technical assistance into the ambit of the Implementation Review Group.

4. The present note further provides an assessment of challenges and makes suggestions for a possible way forward towards a strategic approach to meeting technical assistance needs identified through the Review Mechanism.

II. Delivery framework and resources

5. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has continued to provide a broad set of tailored technical assistance activities at the global, regional and national levels and to develop tools covering the breadth of the Convention to meet the growing demands of Member States. The assistance provided related not only to aspects covered in chapters III (Criminalization and law enforcement) and IV (International cooperation) of the Convention, currently under review, but also to chapters II (Preventive measures) and V (Asset recovery).

6. In line with resolutions 3/4 and 4/1 of the Conference, technical assistance delivered by UNODC for the implementation of the Convention takes into account the importance of country-based and country-led integrated and coordinated technical assistance delivery, and follows a three-tiered approach (global, regional and national) to ensure synergies and efficiency.

7. Assistance has been provided within the framework of the thematic programme on action against corruption, economic fraud and identity-related crime for the period 2012-2015 and through several global projects managed from UNODC headquarters, including the projects entitled “Towards an effective global regime against corruption” and “Joint action towards a global regime against corruption”, as well as the Public-Private Partnership for Probity in Public Procurement, the “Incentives for corporate integrity and cooperation in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption” project, the anti-corruption mentors programme, the outreach and communication programme for the Convention and the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative.

8. A key part of the technical assistance provided by UNODC has been delivered through the anti-corruption mentors programme, which was revived in 2011 through the placement of both national and regional advisers. Currently, national advisers are deployed in Maputo and Juba, and regional advisers are responsible for South-East Asia, South Asia, West Africa, East and Southern Africa, Central America, the Pacific region and Small Island Developing States. A new regional adviser should be deployed in 2013 for the Middle East and North Africa. Those advisers have been providing rapid deliverables, professional expertise at both the country and regional levels to facilitate the delivery of on-site guidance and advice to States parties requesting assistance in strengthening legislation and institutions in

furtherance of the implementation of the Convention. The advisers have also participated in numerous anti-corruption events, training workshops and conferences organized by other technical assistance providers.

9. The UNODC field office network has also started or continued implementing full-fledged comprehensive anti-corruption projects in specific countries, including Afghanistan, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria and Panama.

10. Technical assistance activities of UNODC in support of the implementation of the Convention, including the work of many of the professional experts required for their delivery, are financed through extrabudgetary contributions. The support of donor countries has remained stable, reflecting confidence in effective programme delivery. During the period from January 2011 to August 2013, a total of approximately \$11.9 million in voluntary contributions was made available to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund for technical assistance activities managed from UNODC headquarters in the area of combating corruption. In particular, contributions were received from Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Morocco, Norway, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the World Bank, the International Olympic Committee and Siemens. That figure does not include the contributions made available to UNODC field offices to implement country-based projects and regional programmes. It also does not include the voluntary contributions made available for the functioning of the Implementation Review Mechanism (approximately \$6.3 million).

III. Highlights of technical assistance delivered

A. Assistance with regard to the process for ratifying the Convention

11. Out of the 13 countries that have ratified the Convention since August 2011, 11 have been assisted by UNODC with the pre-ratification process and/or immediately after ratification (Comoros, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Myanmar, Nauru, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands and Swaziland). For example, technical advice was provided to Guinea on depositing its instrument of ratification, and comments were provided on the draft law of ratification. The advocacy work undertaken by UNODC, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in the Pacific (in particular the regional pre-ratification seminar organized in Samoa in 2010) was also fruitful, as demonstrated by the ratification of the Convention by several States of the region. In addition, UNODC undertook similar advocacy work, which, inter alia, led to the ratifications by the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Saudi Arabia and Swaziland.

B. Assistance provided for the identification of gaps in the implementation of the Convention and of technical assistance needs

12. In accordance with the terms of reference and the guidelines of the Review Mechanism, UNODC organized group or regional training courses to familiarize

focal points of States parties under review and governmental experts of reviewing States with the substantive provisions of the Convention and the methodology of the review process. A large number of ad hoc national workshops, in most cases to assist with drafting responses to the comprehensive self-assessment checklist, were also conducted.

13. In addition, and as a way to develop peer learning and to foster South-South cooperation, UNODC organized and delivered, jointly with UNDP, a workshop for focal points of the Review Mechanism on preparation for and lessons learned from the review process, which was held in Burkina Faso in July 2012. The Office also facilitated a visit to Cambodia by Vietnamese officials who had been involved in their own country review and who shared their experiences related to undergoing the review process.

14. Detailed information on those training activities is available in document CAC/COSP/IRG/2013/4, which was presented to the Implementation Review Group at its fourth session, and in document CAC/COSP/2013/13.

15. Based on the experience from the initial years of operation of the Review Mechanism, many Member States have recognized that the quality of the self-assessment was an important driver of the quality of the review and its ultimate utility. In that respect, since 2011 work to assist States parties in the completion of the self-assessment checklist has been undertaken by UNODC upon request by a dozen States parties which were seeking to start early preparation of the self-assessments or to undertake a gap analysis ahead of the formal review. Assistance was also provided to several countries with regard to their efforts to assess the capacities of national bodies or institutions in charge of prevention, awareness-raising, detection and prosecution of corruption (in particular anti-corruption agencies). Experience has shown that the assistance provided by UNODC during the preparatory stages resulted in more comprehensive information being included in the self-assessment and in a better-substantiated information base for the reviews and eventually for preparing future action plans and strategies. That will be particularly important with regard to the two chapters under review in the second cycle. Indeed, chapter V (Asset recovery) contains highly technical provisions, which are new for many countries, and chapter II (Preventive measures) is very far-reaching and will require national consultations among many departments and agencies.

16. Both the formal training sessions and the hands-on assistance contributed to building the capacities of national authorities to assess their own legislative and institutional frameworks, as UNODC sought to ensure that those processes were country-led. It is therefore expected that this expertise will remain available beyond the formal review process and will allow, besides benchmarking, for States to develop their own capacity to monitor existing gaps, review progress and reassess compliance with the Convention on a regular basis.

C. Legislative assistance to incorporate provisions of the Convention into national legislation

17. While many countries have already adopted anti-corruption legislation in line with the Convention, UNODC continued to receive requests from States seeking to

improve their domestic legislation to prevent and fight corruption, in particular based on the challenges identified through the country reviews.

18. Since 2011, legislative drafting assistance and legal advice have been provided to more than 20 States seeking to adopt or amend domestic legislation to implement the Convention, including most recently Egypt, Iraq and Palau. That assistance has served to strengthen the capacity of States to draft and implement legislation and to ensure that new legislation is drafted in compliance with the requirements of the Convention. While most of the pieces of legislation addressed corruption in a comprehensive manner, several laws covered specific aspects such as asset declarations, money-laundering, bribery of foreign public officials, mutual legal assistance, access to information, witness protection and corporate liability. In several cases, examples and good practices from other States were shared with the authorities.

D. Assistance in strengthening of national institutional and policy frameworks to effectively prevent and combat corruption

19. The Office provided broad-ranging support to Member States to improve their capacity to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute corruption. Assistance was provided for the development of national anti-corruption strategies, for the establishment and strengthening of relevant institutional frameworks, structures, policies, processes and procedures and for strengthening of the preventive, investigative and prosecutorial capacities of relevant institutions, through both national and regional activities. Most recently, for example, UNODC supported the development of national anti-corruption strategies in Georgia and the United Arab Emirates and advised Papua New Guinea on a supporting policy document prepared by the National Anti-corruption Strategy Technical Working Group.

20. While support was often provided on an ad hoc basis, specific country projects were also developed and implemented to address the capacity-building needs of countries in a broad manner.

21. In October 2012, UNODC started implementing a comprehensive assistance project to support the South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission. In the past year, the capacity of the Commission with regard to operations, support services and information technology was assessed. Several consultative workshops were organized to develop an organizational development strategy for strengthening support services (human resources, finance, procurement and document management), as well as a technical development strategy, both of which were subsequently endorsed by the senior management of the Commission. To strengthen the institutional capacity of the Commission, support has also been provided for staff members to participate in the annual general meeting of the East African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities and in a study visit to Zambia to learn from relevant regional experiences. Building on those important steps, discussions with the senior management of the Commission have started on how best to develop an overall strategic plan for the Commission, in addition to the existing national anti-corruption strategy. As the constitutional mandate of the Commission has also been extended to the subnational level with the establishment of 10 state anti-corruption offices, an assessment of the capacity, potential role and resource

needs of those offices is under way. Finally, a provisional computerized income and asset declaration system has been installed and is currently being tested and refined. Staff in charge of managing the system and officers responsible for data capture will be trained on the new system in the coming months.

22. In Nigeria, based on the positive outcome of previous cooperation between the national Government and UNODC, a four-and-a-half year anti-corruption programme financed by the European Union became operational in December 2012. The programme is aimed at providing effective support to anti-corruption coordination, policy formulation and legislation, through the adoption of an evidence-based approach; strengthening institutional and operational capacity in the main anti-corruption agencies, the police and the judiciary, with an emphasis on cooperation; and enhancing accountability, transparency and civil society engagement in the fight against corruption.

23. Aside from ongoing technical assistance activities, the Review Mechanism has also proven, in its first years of operation, to be a powerful instrument to foster inter-institutional dialogue, coordination and cooperation at the national level, through the establishment of dedicated steering committees and the organization of workshops for the validation of the information shared through the self-assessment checklists, country reports and executive summaries. The inclusive nature of the process has in several cases facilitated and subsequently set in motion an informed and broad national policy dialogue about the reform needed to tackle the gaps identified during the review process and to establish action plans.

24. To support ongoing national efforts, and although the first country reviews have been completed only recently, technical assistance needs identified in several country reports have already been taken into account by UNODC in devising new activities and projects, or have been integrated into existing projects, as described in more detail below.

25. Through two large anti-corruption projects, UNODC continued to support law enforcement agencies in Indonesia, such as the National Police, the Attorney General's Office, the Corruption Eradication Commission, the Indonesian Financial Investigations Unit and the Supreme Audit Board, in enhancing capacity, professionalism and transparency through technical assistance and specialized training programmes. In addition to the initially planned activities, which spanned a period of four years, the Corruption Eradication Commission recently asked UNODC to take into account recommendations stemming from the country review of Indonesia and to conduct national studies on the criminalization of obstruction of justice in the investigation and prosecution of corruption and on the criminalization of corporate corruption. Those studies are currently in progress.

26. In 2013, UNODC launched a new project in Iraq to address the shortcomings that Iraqi authorities responsible for tackling corruption face with regard to preventing, detecting and investigating the phenomenon, by providing support with regard to legislative reform, capacity-building of investigators, civil society engagement and measures to combat money-laundering. In doing so, the project seeks to build on the outcome of the Review Mechanism and recent surveys and assessments conducted by UNODC in that country.

E. Assistance for international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to countering corruption

27. The Office continued to encourage cooperation among relevant competent authorities, anti-corruption bodies and practitioners involved in international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to countering corruption (in particular mutual legal assistance and extradition). The Office also continued to maintain a list of designated central authorities responsible for requests for mutual legal assistance in accordance with article 46, paragraph 13, of the Convention, which currently contains the contact information for 126 authorities. Information on relevant authorities is available through an online directory to competent authorities and Government agencies with a user account. The same directory also contains information on the competent prevention authorities in accordance with article 6 of the Convention from 140 countries, as well as information on nominated asset recovery focal points from 65 countries.

28. Assistance was provided at the national level. For example, in Mongolia, training on the drafting of mutual legal assistance requests was delivered to practitioners from the Independent Authority against Corruption, the Prosecutor General's office, the national police and the central authority in the Ministry of Justice. Follow-up advice was also provided to the investigators in the Authority on specific issues relating to the drafting of requests for mutual legal assistance and conducting open source investigations. In Iraq, UNODC conducted a workshop on international standards and operational challenges relating to mutual legal assistance and extradition in corruption cases. Training workshops on mutual legal assistance were also delivered in Indonesia, Pakistan and Viet Nam.

29. The Office continued to actively participate, together with other stakeholders, in meetings aimed at coordinating international cooperation among requesting and requested States, including in the context of ongoing asset recovery efforts. In those meetings, delegations of States exchanged operational information, thus reinforcing communication and dialogue.

30. The Review Mechanism has proven to be an important forum for all States parties to engage on practical anti-corruption issues in a positive and constructive spirit, both as States parties under review and as reviewing States parties. The transparent, efficient, non-intrusive, inclusive and impartial nature of the Review Mechanism, as well as its multilingualism, were assets in that regard, as they allowed the participation of all countries. Trilateral meetings and other informal consultations on the margins of sessions of the Implementation Review Group and other meetings have been recognized as particularly valuable. The value of establishing informal channels of communication between requesting and requested States, including direct contacts between central authorities, law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units, has also been highlighted as key for international cooperation. The dialogue between reviewing experts and focal points in the framework of the Review Mechanism is considered to facilitate such informal contacts.

F. Assistance related to asset recovery

31. An update on technical assistance related to asset recovery is available in the background paper prepared by the Secretariat containing highlights from two years of asset recovery work under the Convention (CAC/COSP/2013/2). That paper is to be read in conjunction with the two progress reports on the implementation of asset recovery mandates submitted to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery in 2012 and 2013 (CAC/COSP/WG.2/2012/3 and CAC/COSP/WG.2/2013/3) and the reports of the two intersessional meetings of the Working Group in 2012 and 2013 (CAC/COSP/WG.2/2012/4 and CAC/COSP/WG.2/2013/4). The paper includes the outcomes of the thematic discussions that took place in the Working Group based on the workplan adopted at its sixth session for the preparation of the review of Chapter V, examples of technical assistance delivered, background on some relevant knowledge products and initiatives, and recommendations for possible action by the Conference.

G. Assistance related to the prevention of corruption

32. A background paper (CAC/COSP/2013/17) prepared by the Secretariat on the actions taken by the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption and others to implement resolution 4/3 of the Conference, entitled “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, is also presented to the fifth session of the Conference. The paper highlights in particular the Institutional Integrity Initiative and the United Nations Public Service Awards, as well as a wide range of activities addressing vulnerabilities in both the public and private sectors, including with regard to issues of common interest, such as public procurement. It also presents efforts undertaken by States with the support of UNODC to strengthen anti-corruption agencies and to improve judicial and police integrity. It further describes activities aimed at engaging individuals and groups outside the public sector in the prevention of corruption, in particular civil society organizations, journalists and academia, as well as several tools which have been developed to support the different actors in effectively preventing corruption.

33. With regard to the prevention of corruption, the review process also gave States parties an opportunity to establish and renew cooperative relationships with a wide range of non-State stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and academia, notably during the country visits. Many States parties have already involved a wide range of stakeholders at the stage of completing the self-assessment checklist, thus allowing for a comprehensive review that includes a full range of relevant factors at play in the national context. An inclusive review process can facilitate the identification of strategic priorities and the development of an effective prioritized national anti-corruption plan by fostering a contextually relevant understanding of the situation regarding corruption in the country and efforts to counter it. A comprehensive and inclusive review process can also contribute to ensuring ownership by all involved stakeholders of the review outcomes and of future reforms.

H. Technical assistance tools facilitating the delivery of assistance on the ground

34. The Office has continued to develop and disseminate guides, handbooks and other tools which address the needs of anti-corruption practitioners with regard to specific aspects, challenges, policies and good practices relating to the implementation of the Convention.

35. Key tools targeting academia and the private sector and tools specifically related to international cooperation and asset recovery have been presented in earlier reports (in particular CAC/COSP/IRG/2013/2 and Corr.1), as well as in separate documents on the prevention of corruption (CAC/COSP/2013/17) and on asset recovery (CAC/COSP/2013/2).

36. The Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) portal, developed by UNODC in 2012, enjoyed steady success. Indeed, based on internal records, 9,500 people visited the TRACK portal at least once during the first six months of 2013. (The total number for 2012 was 10,000.) In particular, the United Nations Convention against Corruption legal library, which is a part of the TRACK initiative and contains laws, jurisprudence and information on anti-corruption authorities from over 175 States, has fully benefited from the Review Mechanism, as its data has been validated or is in the process of being validated for a number of countries, with information from completed reviews or through official data submitted by Governments.

I. Evidence-based assessments of corruption patterns and modalities

37. The Office provided continuing support to countries in collecting data and developing statistical indicators to provide benchmarks for the assessment of corruption, as well as in undertaking research and analytical work to increase knowledge on and understanding of corruption and to support evidence-based normative, policy and operational decisions.

38. Analytical work continued on the survey on crime and corruption affecting the business sector in the western Balkans. The survey addresses bribery/corruption, fraud, extortion and several forms of crime which have an impact on business and industry. A pilot survey and the full survey were conducted in the second half of 2012, and results were analysed in the first half of 2013. The launch of the regional report "Business, corruption and crime in the western Balkans: the impact of bribery and other crime on private enterprise" is expected to take place in October 2013 at a public event in Brussels. Seven national/area reports are expected to be launched between October and December 2013 in the respective capitals in the western Balkans.

39. The report *Corruption and Integrity Challenges in the Public Sector of Iraq* was published in January 2013. It was translated into Arabic and disseminated among a group of stakeholders and anti-corruption officials at a launch event in June 2013 in Baghdad. The report is available in print and on the website of UNODC.

40. The report “Corruption in Afghanistan: recent patterns and integrity challenges in the public sector”, which is an expanded version of “Corruption in Afghanistan: recent patterns and trends — summary findings”, which was launched in February 2013, will be published in the final quarter of 2013.

41. The self-assessment process has also brought new opportunities to refine and enhance national data collection in areas directly relevant to national policy development by making use of existing national and international research, assessments and statistics, while at the same time seeking to identify how those can be improved and complemented. When data were scattered, the process of completing the self-assessment checklist provided an excellent opportunity to develop a more sustainable data collection system. Some States parties have therefore used the initial data collection team that was formed for the review process as a basis for building their mechanisms for continued data collection. Many States parties have also indicated that they will use the outcome of the review process as a yardstick against which they will measure progress domestically.

J. Coordination and cooperation in the delivery of technical assistance

42. The Review Mechanism also provided a platform to identify technical assistance needs and to validate them based on collected evidence and the peer review. More detailed information on technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews is available in the note by the secretariat on that topic (CAC/COSP/2013/5), which presents technical assistance needs identified in the country reviews for the implementation of chapters III (Criminalization and law enforcement) and IV (International cooperation) of the Convention by 44 States parties under review in the first and second years of the first cycle of the Review Mechanism.

43. In several cases, specific legislative, institutional and capacity-building activities have been undertaken on an ad hoc basis to address the recommendations in the country review reports, with the support of the reviewing experts and the secretariat in the context of the ongoing review process. National action plans, based on the outcomes of the reviews, have been elaborated and are being used as the framework for the development of technical assistance programmes to combat corruption in several countries. A good practice from several country reviews has been to invite donors or existing donor coordination groups to participate in the direct dialogue during the country visits. That has had the benefit of providing donors with a more in-depth perspective on the technical assistance needs identified during the review process, and with an opportunity to bring their own activities to the attention of the review team. It has also presented an occasion for discussing ongoing technical assistance programmes, through which it may be possible to address some of the needs identified in the reviews.

44. In order to trigger the follow-up process, once a country review was concluded and technical assistance needs had been identified, the secretariat sent a letter indicating readiness to take forward the outcome of the review process through, inter alia, assisting the State party under review in developing a prioritized action plan and discussing how to meet the needs identified, including through establishing

a dialogue with potential donors. Follow-up was also provided by the UNODC field office network, particularly by the field-based advisers of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch. For instance, technical assistance needs emerging from the reviews were included in country and regional programming, and efforts were made to encourage their inclusion in wider United Nations and bilateral programming, including through early incorporation in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The availability of seed funds allowing UNODC to offer follow-up advisory services to work with requesting countries on developing prioritized action plans, based on the needs identified in the reviews, was crucial in that regard.

45. To strengthen existing efforts to cooperate and coordinate the provision of technical assistance for the prevention of and fight against corruption, UNDP and UNODC, together with the United Nations System Staff College, are developing an inter-agency training package on the integration of anti-corruption programming into the national level of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The objective of the training package is to enable United Nations staff to address anti-corruption aspects and the contribution that anti-corruption efforts can make to national development processes in the dialogue with partner countries, and to apply anti-corruption programming approaches and principles. The anti-corruption training course will be part of the general training on the Framework process. An anti-corruption training-of-trainers workshop was held in Turin, Italy, from 15 to 18 April 2013 and involved 26 participants from UNDP, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries and UNODC. The final training materials will be made available online. Moving from theory to practice, UNODC and UNDP have started advising and training staff from the Government of Kenya and other United Nations agencies on how to mainstream anti-corruption efforts into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Kenya that is currently under development for the period 2013-2017.

46. Reaching out to the development community as a whole, UNODC and UNDP have developed a training manual, under the “Partnership for anti-corruption knowledge” initiative, to inform development partners and enable them to use the Convention as a framework which allows them to align their technical cooperation with the priorities of beneficiaries; establish and strengthen a platform of dialogue, coordination and harmonization among development partners; provide a strong basis for enhanced ownership of countries benefiting from technical cooperation; and establish a shared benchmark for monitoring and evaluation and thus a basis for mutual accountability for the effective implementation of programmes, projects and other initiatives aimed at preventing and combating corruption. The manual will be used in regional and national training programmes on the use of the Convention to enhance the effectiveness and impact of development cooperation in the area of countering corruption and governance.

47. When developing and implementing its anti-corruption technical assistance projects and programmes, UNODC also strives to avoid duplication of effort and to build synergies with entities within and outside the United Nations system. Such coordination includes the partnership with the World Bank in the joint StAR Initiative and with the United Nations Global Compact for activities related to the private sector. Similarly, in the framework of the memorandum of understanding

signed between UNODC and UNDP, both entities have launched a joint anti-corruption project for the Pacific, as well as two complementary global projects, with parallel workplans, covering East Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, South Asia, South-East Asia, Southern Africa and Small Island Developing States.

48. The Office has also continued to promote the Convention among other organizations and mechanisms at the international, regional and subregional levels, and to provide substantive input on matters related to the prevention of and fight against corruption to facilitate the inclusion of those aspects in the activities of other entities within and outside the United Nations system. A detailed list of regional and international organizations with which UNODC cooperates on a regular or ad hoc basis has been made available in previous reports.

IV. Recommendations for future assistance to be delivered, including as a follow-up to the findings and recommendations emerging from the review process

49. As highlighted during the different meetings of the Implementation Review Group, as well as during the fourth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the delivery of technical assistance to meet identified needs is pivotal to the successful and consistent implementation of the Convention.

50. The Convention review process, as well as the identification of follow-up actions aimed at the full implementation of the Convention, must be country-led; country-owned and driven by national authorities; inclusive and comprehensive, involving all relevant actors in a systematic manner; and country-coordinated, as support for the implementation of remedial actions by the national authorities should be closely coordinated with international technical assistance providers, as deemed appropriate.

51. Ad hoc, short-term and targeted technical assistance should be available during the review process and offered as an initial response to needs identified during the country reviews. That could take the form of training or advisory services. The experience of UNODC in delivering such assistance so far has shown that it increases trust and confidence in the Review Mechanism and encourages the State party under review to prioritize what it considers the most pressing need emerging from the review. Examples of possible actions include the development or revision of a comprehensive national anti-corruption strategy (including priorities, outputs, monitoring, evaluation and reporting) and of a related action plan to address the needs identified during the review; a training course on financial investigations, including fraud, money-laundering, asset tracing and confiscation; a training course on international cooperation in cases of corruption, including extradition and mutual legal assistance; legal advice to ensure that the shortcomings identified in current national legislation are addressed; expert advice for the development of a case management system for the anti-corruption agency; and legal advice and training on the adoption and use of special investigative techniques. Regular requests have also been received by UNODC on ways to improve the detection of corruption through the development of witness and whistle-blower

protection programmes or through advisory services relating to how to structure systems of asset and income declarations. In previous years, the availability of seed funding has allowed UNODC to offer such short-term follow-up assistance upon request.

52. In addition, and drawing notably on the thematic reports submitted to the Implementation Review Group, common needs have also been identified at the regional and subregional level. Regional short-term assistance can take the form of regional training workshops or support to regional exchanges of good practices, and could include the following: regional training sessions on international cooperation to serve the purpose of capacity-building but at the same time to allow for networking among practitioners in the region; a workshop to discuss model agreements and arrangements for law enforcement cooperation and for joint investigations; a regional workshop on good practices and lessons learned, as well as legal advice with regard to provisions related to foreign bribery and bribery in the private sector; and a regional workshop to discuss model legislation to counter the laundering of proceeds of corruption. Again, seed funding to carry out such regional training workshops can greatly enhance the impact of the work of the Review Mechanism and immediately lead to greater regional and international cooperation.

53. Such short-term assistance may be all that is required if needs are limited or if States parties are able to include the necessary measures in their national budgets over the medium and long term. However, in many cases, that initial support would also lead to a more sustained technical assistance programme.

54. Often, the needs identified in the country reviews require more robust multi-year assistance. In several cases, Governments will need to be assisted in developing fully fledged technical assistance projects, which could include the following: legislative, policy and technical advice components such as the establishment and operational capacity-building of anti-corruption bodies; the development and operation of inter-agency coordination and cooperation mechanisms to fight corruption, supported by an appropriate secretariat; the strengthening of the investigative and prosecutorial capacities of national anti-corruption bodies; the enhancement of national capacities to conduct complex financial investigations, trace and freeze assets and recover the proceeds of corruption at the national and international levels; the provision of case management software; the full launching of witness protection programmes; or the organization of training workshops for non-State actors involved in the prevention of and fight against corruption.

55. In such cases, a strategic approach is needed to ensure that donors are willing to consider the outcome of the reviews for either new technical assistance programming or for incorporating those needs into programmes that are already ongoing, for example in the area of governance and public administration and justice reform. Training workshops under the “Partnership for anti-corruption knowledge” initiative attempt to draw the attention of donors to the potential that the Convention and the Review Mechanism can have for informed programming. The role of UNODC in that process would be to facilitate dialogue between the national authorities and relevant development partners to seek support for the programme by, inter alia, ensuring that the activities are in line with the needs validated through the review process without imposing itself as an implementing agency. That is in line with the mandates given to UNODC by the Conference,

which has specified that the outcomes of the Review Mechanism should also be used to facilitate technical cooperation between those in need of technical assistance and the providers of such assistance. Such UNODC assistance normally includes the identification of possible technical assistance available from other bilateral and international donors present at the regional and national levels, a presentation of the review outcomes to relevant donors and the provision of technical advice to donors wishing to support remedial actions through their own technical assistance projects.
