



International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy

4th Meeting of the Expert Group on the Omnibus Survey Software to gather information on the implementation of UNCAC, UNTOC and its Protocols Toronto, Canada, 28 September to 1 October 2009

At its first session, held in Jordan in 2006, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption requested the Secretariat to develop a self-assessment checklist to facilitate the provision of information by States parties and signatories on the implementation of some key articles of the Convention. Although limited in scope, the computer-based self-assessment checklist developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was commended by the Conference at its second session, held in Indonesia in 2008. On that occasion, the Conference further requested UNODC to explore the option of modifying the existing self-assessment checklist as to create a comprehensive information-gathering tool that might serve as a useful starting point for collecting implementation information in any future reviews.

In partnership with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy and Northeastern University, UNODC commenced the development of the “Omnibus Survey Software to Gather Information on the Implementation of UNCAC, UNTOC and its Protocols”. This work was presented to and discussed by an Expert Group Meeting, held in Vienna from 23 to 24 February 2009. Following the conclusions of that meeting, UNODC conducted a trial phase, during which the Omnibus Survey Software was tested with 37 States parties and signatories from all five regional groups. After incorporating comments made by the experts at their third meeting and the States that had tested the application, the Omnibus Survey Software was presented to the experts for review and validation at their fourth meeting, held in Toronto on 28 September 2009.

Mr. Dandurand, Senior Associate with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR), welcomed participants and opened the meeting. Mr. Vlassis, Chief of the Corruption and Economic Crime Section of UNODC, informed participants that, taking into account the wealth of information gathered through the UNCAC self-assessment checklist launched in 2007, the Conference requested UNODC to explore the option of modifying the self-assessment checklist as to create a comprehensive information-gathering tool covering all substantive articles of UNCAC. Furthermore, as the Conference of the Parties to UNTOC decided that a similar tool should be developed for UNTOC, the decision to combine the two mandates was taken. Mr. Vlassis highlighted that the Omnibus Survey Software would be finalized according to comments received from the experts. The Software would be presented for endorsement to the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention at its third session, to be held in Doha, Qatar, from 9 to 13 November 2009.