

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST
CORRUPTION**

RULES OF PROCEDURE AND OTHER PROVISIONS ¹

**I. SCOPE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND OTHER
PROVISIONS**

Article 1. Scope of the Rules of Procedure and Other Provisions. *The Rules of Procedure and Other Provisions* (hereafter *Rules*) shall prescribe the structure and operation of the Committee of Experts (hereafter *Committee*) of the Mechanism for Follow-up (hereafter *Follow-up Mechanism*) on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (hereafter *Convention*).

The *Committee* shall have the responsibility of undertaking its activities within the framework of the purposes, basic principles, characteristics and other provisions established in the “Report of Buenos Aires on the Mechanism for Follow-up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption” (hereafter *Report of Buenos Aires*), of the decisions that are adopted by the Conference of States Parties and, pertinently, of the Organization of American States (OAS) Charter.

The *Committee* may resolve those matters not addressed by these *Rules*, the *Report of Buenos Aires* or the OAS Charter in accordance with the provisions in article 3 (k) and article 13.

II. STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

Article 2. Composition. The *Committee* shall be comprised of the experts appointed by each of the States Parties that are members of the *Follow-up Mechanism* (hereafter *States Parties*).

Each State Party shall notify the Secretariat of the name or names and personal information (address, e-mail address, phone and fax number) of the expert or experts that will represent it in the *Committee*. When more than one expert is appointed, the State Party shall indicate the name of the expert who shall lead the group. In this case, the lead expert shall be the contact point for the Secretariat in distributing documents and for all communications.

Each State Party shall notify the Secretariat when there is a change in its representation to the *Committee*.

Article 3. Responsibilities of the Committee. In accordance with the *Report of Buenos Aires*, the *Committee* shall be responsible for the technical analysis of the implementation of the *Convention* by the *States Parties*. In performing this function, the *Committee* shall undertake the following:

- a) Adopt its annual working plan, for which the Secretariat will develop a draft in conformity with the provisions in article 9 (a) of these *Rules*.

¹These *Rules of Procedure and Other Provisions* were approved by the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, in its first meeting held at OAS Headquarters, Washington, D.C., United States, between January 14 to 18, 2002.

- b) Select, from among the provisions of the *Convention*, those whose implementation by all of the *States Parties* shall be reviewed, seeking to include both preventive measures and other provisions contained in the *Convention*, and determine the length of time it shall devote to this task, which shall be known as a “round”.
- c) Adopt a methodology for the review of the implementation of the provisions of the *Convention* selected to be reviewed in each round that is designed to ensure that sufficient reliable information is obtained. The adoption of this methodology shall comply with the procedure described in article 18 of these *Rules*.
- d) Adopt a questionnaire on the provisions selected for review in each round, based on OAS document CP/GT/PEC-68/00 rev. 3 “Questionnaire on Ratification and Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption” and in accordance with article 18 of these *Rules*.
- e) Select, in each round, an impartial methodology (such as presentation on a voluntary basis, in chronological order of ratification of the *Convention* or by lot) for setting the dates for review of the information on each State Party.
- f) Determine the composition of each subgroup, to be comprised of experts from two *States Parties* in accordance with article 20 of these *Rules*, which shall review, with support from the Secretariat, the information on the State Party they have been assigned to review.
- g) Adopt the country reports in regard to each of the *States Parties* and a final report at the end of each round, in accordance with articles 21 to 26 of these *Rules*.
- h) Promote and facilitate co-operation among the *States Parties*, within the framework of the *Convention* and in accordance with the *Report of Buenos Aires* and article 36 of these *Rules*.
- i) Approve a yearly activity report, which shall be forwarded to the Conference of States Parties.
- j) Review periodically the operation of the *Follow-up Mechanism* and propose any recommendations it considers pertinent to the Conference of States Parties regarding the *Convention* and the *Report of Buenos Aires*.
- k) Request the assistance and guidance from the Conference of States Parties, when it considers it necessary or convenient in fulfilling its responsibilities.

Article 4. Chair and Vice-Chair. The *Committee* shall have a Chair and a Vice-Chair, who will be elected separately from among its members for a one-year term and may be re-elected for the following year.

If the Chair or Vice-Chair cease to serve as representatives of their respective States, then their term as such would be terminated.

If the Chairman ceases to serve as a representative of a State Party or resigns before the term is concluded, the Vice-Chair shall assume the responsibilities of Chair and the *Committee* shall elect a new Vice-Chair for the remainder of the term.

If the Vice-Chair were to cease serving as a representative of a State Party or resigns before the term is concluded, the *Committee* shall elect a new Vice-Chair for the remainder of the term.

In the case of a permanent absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, their replacements shall be elected during the following *Committee* meeting, according to the procedure established by these rules.

Elections of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be by consensus. In the case of not reaching consensus on the decision it shall be adopted by one half plus one of the lead experts of the *States Parties*, through a secret vote.

Article 5. Responsibilities of the Chair. The Chair shall have the following responsibilities:

- a) Co-ordinate with the Secretariat the various activities related to the operation of the *Committee*.
- b) Open and adjourn all meetings and direct the discussions.
- c) Submit to the *Committee* for its consideration the topics that are a part of the approved order of business for each meeting.
- d) Decide on points of order that may arise during deliberations.
- e) Put motions to a vote and announce the results thereof.
- f) Represent the *Committee* before the Conference of States Parties, OAS organs and other institutions.
- g) Submit to the *Committee* for its consideration the proposals on the composition of the preliminary review subgroups, to be comprised of experts from two *States Parties*, which shall review, with support from the Secretariat, the information received from a reviewed State Party.
- h) All other responsibilities conferred by these *Rules* and the *Committee*.

Article 6. Temporary leave of Chair. When the Chair or Vice-Chair is presiding the *Committee*, he or she must be excused temporarily from the Chair duties when review and approval of the country report in regards to the State Party he or she represents takes place.

Article 7. Responsibilities of the Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair in the temporary or permanent absence of the Chair and shall assist the Chair in the performance of his or her activities.

Article 8. Secretariat. The Secretariat of the *Committee* shall be undertaken by the OAS General Secretariat.

As a result, matters regarding the Secretariat's technical and administrative personnel, as well as its structure and responsibilities, shall adhere to the provisions in the OAS Charter, the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the OAS approved by its General Assembly, and the decisions that the Secretary General may adopt in developing said General Standards.

Article 9. Responsibilities of the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall have the following responsibilities:

- a) Prepare an annual draft working plan of the *Committee*, which shall include the respective proposals in regards to the number of *States Parties* that will be reviewed in said period, the meetings that will be held for such review and a timetable to complement said activities, and submit it to the *Committee* for its consideration.
- b) Send convocation notices for all *Committee* meetings.
- c) Prepare the draft order of business for each *Committee* meeting.
- d) Prepare the methodology and questionnaire proposals for the review of the provisions of the *Convention* selected, whose application shall be reviewed in a round, and submit them to the *Committee* for its consideration and approval, in accordance with article 18 of these *Rules*.
- e) Support the subgroups of experts in the process of reviewing the information received from the *States Parties* and in preparing and presenting the preliminary reports referred to in provision 7 (b) (iii), of the *Report of Buenos Aires*.
- f) Prepare a draft Final Report at the end of each round, submit it to the *Committee* for its consideration and, once the Final Report is adopted by the *Committee*, forward it to the Conference of States Parties.
- g) Prepare a draft *Committee* Annual Report and, once said Report is adopted by the *Committee*, forward it to the Conference of States Parties.
- h) Serve as a custodian for all the documents and files of the *Committee*.
- i) Disseminate, through the *Internet* and by any other means of communication, information and public documents related to the *Follow-up Mechanism*, as well as the country and final reports of each round, once they are made public in accordance with these *Rules*.
- j) Serve as the central co-ordinating and contact point for the delivery and exchange of documents and communications between the experts, as individuals or as a *Committee*, with the Conference of States Parties, OAS organs and other organizations or institutions.
- k) Notify the *Committee* members of communications received or submitted to them for their consideration, unless they are significantly beyond the scope of the responsibilities of the *Committee* or in the case of Civil Society Organizations that do not comply with the requirements or time periods prescribed in article 33 of

these *Rules*.

- l) Prepare the minutes of *Committee* meetings and maintain its files.
- m) Update periodically information on the progress made by each State Party regarding the implementation of the *Convention*, based on the information submitted by them, directly or within the framework of the *Committee* meetings in accordance with article 30 of these *Rules*.
- n) Prepare or co-ordinate the preparation of research papers, investigations or studies on topics related to the *Committee's* responsibilities, which shall be submitted to the *Committee* for its consideration in conformity with article 36 (b) of these *Rules*.
- o) Advise the Chair, Vice-Chair and the *Committee* members in undertaking their responsibilities when requested.
- p) Promote and organize programs of technical co-operation in conjunction with other international co-operation organizations and agencies to support the *States Parties* in their efforts to comply with the recommendations that are made by the *Committee*.
- q) All other responsibilities that the *Committee* may assign to the Secretariat or those which may be necessary for the effective fulfillment of its responsibilities.

Article 10. Means for delivery of communications and distribution of documents. In order to facilitate distribution and minimize costs, the communications between the Secretariat and lead experts (and vice-versa), as well as the documents for consideration by them individually, in subgroups or in plenary *Committee* meetings, shall be forwarded via electronic mail with a copy to be sent to the Permanent Mission of the respective State Party to the OAS.

The responses to the questionnaires by the *States Parties*, and whatever other documents they or lead expert may forward for distribution among the *Committee* members, shall also be forwarded to the Secretariat in an electronic form.

In extraordinary cases, when no electronic version exists of the documents, they shall be forwarded, preferably, via fax and, as a last alternative, via regular mail.

Article 11. Languages. The working languages of the *Committee* are the languages of the *States Parties* which are at the same time the official languages of the OAS

Article 12. Quorum. Quorum for meeting shall constitute the presence of one-half plus one of the lead experts that represent the *States Parties*.

Article 13. Decisions. As a general rule, the *Committee* shall make its decisions by consensus.

In those cases where there is a controversy in regards to a decision, the Chair shall undertake the good offices and all the measures at the Chair's disposal in trying to reach a consensus among the *Committee* members. Once the Chair considers that this path has been exhausted

and that a decision by consensus is not possible, the issue shall be put to a vote. In this event, decisions shall enter into force with a vote of two-thirds of the lead experts present, if the issue is with regard to the adoption of a country or final report or the amendment of these *Rules*. In all other cases, the decision shall enter into force by a vote of one-half plus one of the lead experts present. In this last case, all votes shall be yes, no or be an abstention.

A lead expert shall abstain from voting when the *Committee* is considering his or her State Party's draft preliminary report.

Article 14. Consultations by electronic means. In periods between meetings, the *Committee* may consult through electronic means of communication.

Article 15. Observers. In accordance with provision 7 (d) of the *Report of Buenos Aires*, States that are not *States Parties* may be invited to observe the plenary meetings of the *Committee* if they so request.

Article 16. Headquarters. In accordance with provision 6 of the *Report of Buenos Aires*, the *Committee*, as an entity, shall have its headquarters at the OAS.

Article 17. Funding. The *Committee's* activities will be funded in accordance with provision 9 of the *Report of Buenos Aires*.

III. REVIEW PROCEDURE

Article 18. Selection of provisions, determination of a round and adoption of methodology and questionnaire. The procedure for the selection of the provisions, the determination of a round and the adoption of a methodology and questionnaire for the review of the implementation by the *States Parties* of the provisions of the *Convention*, shall be the following:

- a) The *Committee* shall select the provisions of the *Convention* whose implementation by the *States Parties* shall be reviewed, seeking to include both preventive measures and other provisions contained in the *Convention*. This information shall be made public once the *Committee* selects the respective provisions.
- b) The Secretariat shall prepare the methodology and questionnaire proposals for the review of said provisions and shall forward them to the lead experts of all the *States Parties* and shall publish them via the *Internet* and by any other means of communication in accordance with article 33, no later than thirty (30) days before the date of the *Committee* meeting that will consider said methodology and questionnaire.
- c) The *Committee* in plenary shall adopt the final versions of the methodology and questionnaire, and shall determine the length of time it will devote to the review of the implementation by the *States Parties* of those provisions selected, which shall be known as a round.
- d) The final versions of the methodology and questionnaire shall be disseminated by the Secretariat via the *Internet* and by any other means of communication.

Article 19. Definition of the review process of the *States Parties*.- At the beginning of every round, the *Committee* shall:

- a) Adopt an impartial methodology (such as presentation on a voluntary basis, chronological order of ratification of the *Convention*, or lot) for setting the dates for review of the information on each State Party.
- b) Determine the number of *States Parties* whose information shall be the subject of review in each meeting so as to complete the round within the planned time frame.
- c) Determine, as a minimum and in accordance with the impartial methodology referred to in paragraph (a) of this article, the *States Parties* whose information shall be the subject of review for the first meeting within the framework of a round.

In the event that in the beginning of a round only the *States Parties* whose information shall be the subject of review in the next meeting are selected, then in accordance with the impartial methodology adopted for the entire round, the *States Parties* whose information shall be the subject of review for the following meeting shall be selected.

The information that is referred to in this article shall be made public once the *Committee* reaches the decisions herein mentioned.

Article 20. Composition of subgroups for the review of the information and the preliminary report. The *Committee*, based on the proposal prepared by the Secretariat in co-ordination with the Chair, shall determine the composition of the subgroups with experts (one or more) from two *States Parties* that, with support from the Secretariat, shall review the information and prepare the preliminary reports on each State Party whose information shall be reviewed in the next meeting by the *Committee*.

In selecting the members of a subgroup consideration shall be given to the historical legal tradition of the State Party whose information shall be the subject of review.

Consideration will be given to avoid the selection, to a subgroup, of experts from a State Party that has been reviewed by the State Party under review in that round.

Each State Party shall endeavor to be part of a subgroup, on at least two occasions in each round.

Article 21. Questionnaire response. Once the final version of the questionnaire is agreed upon, the Secretariat shall forward it, in electronic format, to the State Party whose information shall be the subject of review, through its Permanent Mission to the OAS, with a copy to the lead expert on *Committee* of said State Party.

The State Party shall, through its Permanent Mission to the OAS, forward to the Secretariat the responses to the questionnaire, in electronic format, with all the supporting documents, within the time period that the *Committee* sets in each round.

The lead experts shall take all the necessary measures in ensuring that their respective *States Parties* respond to the questionnaire within the time period referred to in the previous

paragraph.

Article 22. Co-ordinating governmental unit in regard to the questionnaire. In all matters related to the forwarding and response of the questionnaire, each State Party shall identify the co-ordinating governmental unit and notify the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall then register said unit.

Article 23. Procedure for the review of the information and preparation of the preliminary report. Once the responses to the questionnaire is received, the procedure shall be as follows:

- a) The Secretariat shall prepare a draft preliminary report;
- b) The Secretariat shall forward the draft preliminary report to the corresponding subgroup for its comments;
- c) The subgroup shall forward to the Secretariat any comments they may have in regard to the draft preliminary report;
- d) The Secretariat shall forward the draft preliminary report and the comments of the subgroup to the State Party under review for clarification;
- e) Upon receipt of its draft preliminary report, the State Party being reviewed shall respond to the comments of the subgroup and the Secretariat;
- f) On the basis of the responses of the State Party being reviewed to the comments of the subgroup, the Secretariat shall prepare a revised draft preliminary report, which it shall forward to the *Committee* at least two weeks before the subsequent *Committee* meeting for consideration.

Article 24. Preliminary review meeting of the subgroup and the State Party under review. The representatives of each reviewed State Party shall meet with the members of the subgroup in charge of the preliminary review and with the Secretariat the day before the beginning of the *Committee* meeting in which the said preliminary report shall be considered.

This meeting shall have as its purpose the revision or clarification of those areas of the draft preliminary report where discrepancies in regards to its content or form may still exist and establish a methodology for the presentation of the draft preliminary report in the plenary of the *Committee*.

Based on the information received from the reviewed State Party, the subgroup may agree to change the text of the draft preliminary report or maintain it as is for its presentation to the *Committee*. The members of the subgroup shall also agree upon the presentation format of their preliminary report to the plenary of the *Committee*.

Article 25. Consideration and approval of the country report in the *Committee*. For the consideration and adoption of the report, the *Committee* shall proceed as follows:

- a) The members of the subgroup in charge of the preliminary review shall briefly present the content and scope of the preliminary report.

- b) The reviewed State Party shall make a brief statement in regards to the preliminary report.
- c) A discussion, open to the *Committee* as a whole, shall then begin on the preliminary report.
- d) The plenary of the *Committee* may make any specific changes to the preliminary report it considers necessary, prepare the conclusions and, if deemed appropriate, make any recommendations it considers pertinent.
- e) In accordance with the spirit of provision 3 (e) of the *Report of Buenos Aires*, the *Committee* shall strive to base its recommendations, if any, on the principles of consensus and cooperation.
- f) The Secretariat shall revise the report as agreed by the *Committee* and shall present the revised report to the *Committee* for its approval.
- g) Once the country report is approved in accordance with the provisions mentioned in the previous paragraphs, the reviewed State Party may authorize the Secretariat to publish it, along with the observations they may have presented, via the Internet or through any other means of communication.

Article 26. Final Report. At the end of a round, the *Committee* shall adopt a final report which shall include the individual country reports in relation to each one of the *States Parties* and the observations that each of them had to their reports. Likewise, it shall include an overall review that contemplates, among other things, the conclusions that are arrived at in the country reports and the recommendations of a collective nature in respect to following up on the results of said reports, such as the actions that are recommended in consolidating or strengthening hemispherical cooperation on the issues that are referred to in the provisions under consideration in each round or that are closely related to them.

The final report shall be forwarded to the Conference of States Parties and shall subsequently be made public.

Article 27. Documents. In each round the Secretariat shall recommend the format, characteristics and length of the documents that will circulate within the framework of the *Committee's* responsibilities, allowing each State Party the possibility of providing additional documents it considers to be necessary.

Article 28. Length and format of the country report. All the country reports shall have the same structure. This structure is to be considered and approved by the *Committee* in the same manner as foreseen in Article 18 in adopting the methodology and questionnaire.

Article 29. Review of new States Parties. Once a State Party becomes part of the *Follow-up Mechanism*, it shall:

- a) Respond to the previously adopted questionnaires.

- b) Be reviewed by the subgroup assigned to follow-up on its compliance with the provisions of the *Convention* that were considered in previous rounds as well as of those that are being reviewed within the framework of the developing round at the moment the State becomes a State Party.

IV. FOLLOW-UP

Article 30. Reports within the framework of the *Committee* meetings. At the beginning of each *Committee* meeting, each one of the *States Parties* shall report on the measures it has adopted, between the previous meeting and the present one, and on the progress it has made in implementing the *Convention*. The Secretariat shall always include this issue in the draft order of business for each *Committee* meeting.

Article 31. Follow-up within the framework of future rounds. At the start of a new round, there shall be included as a section within the questionnaire a chapter with specific questions that will enable the review of the progress made by each State Party in implementing the recommendations included in its individual country report adopted in the previous rounds.

Based on the information received on this point, the individual country report shall review the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations adopted in the previous country reports. In this respect, the report may congratulate a State Party on specific progress made or urge it to comply; in those cases where there has been no progress made in regards to previous country reports.

Article 32. Visits for follow-up. In following up on the provisions reviewed and recommendations made within the framework of a round, as part of the methodology and cooperation efforts in accordance with provisions 3 and 7(b)(i) of the *Report of Buenos Aires*, the *Committee* may establish visits by the members of the subgroups to all reviewed *States Parties* in future rounds.

In addition, visits may be undertaken when the reviewed State Party requests said visit.

V. CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATION

Article 33. Civil Society Organizations participation. Upon the publication of draft questionnaires, instruments of methodology and any other documents which the *Committee* deems appropriate, civil society organizations, taking into account the Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS activities CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), and in accordance with the internal legislation of the respective State Party, may:

- a) Present, through the Secretariat, specific proposals to be considered in the drafting process referred to in Article 18 of these *Rules*. These proposals should be presented with a copy in electronic format, within a time frame established by the Secretariat, which time frame will be made public.
- b) Present, through the Secretariat, documents with specific and direct information related to the questions that are referred to in the questionnaire with respect to the implementation, by a State Party under review, of the provisions selected for review within the framework of a round. These documents shall be presented, with a copy in an electronic format, within the same time period given to the State

Party in responding to the questionnaire.

The Secretariat shall forward the documents that comply with the aforementioned conditions and terms before mentioned, to the State Party under review as well as to the members of the subgroup in charge of the preliminary review.

- c) Present proposal documents related to the collective interest issues that the *Committee* has included in their annual working plan, in accordance with the provision in article 36 (b) of these *Rules*. These documents shall be presented, through the Secretariat, with a copy in electronic format, no later than a month before the date of the meeting in which the *Committee* shall consider these issues.

The Secretariat shall forward a copy of these documents to the lead experts via electronic mail.

Article 34. Distribution of documents from civil society organizations. The documents presented by civil society organizations, in accordance with the provisions in the previous article, shall be distributed in the language in which they were presented. Civil society organizations may, along with the document, annex a translation of it in the official languages of the *Follow-up Mechanism*, in electronic format, for distribution.

The documents presented by civil society organizations that are not in electronic format shall only be distributed among the *Committee* members during the meeting when their length is no greater than ten (10) pages. If the length is greater than 10 pages, civil society organizations shall forward enough copies to the Secretariat for distribution.

Article 35. Participation of civil society organizations in Committee meetings. The *Committee* may invite or accept the request from civil society organizations, within the framework of its meetings, to give a verbal presentation of the documents they presented in accordance with the provision in article 33 (c) of these *Rules*.

VI. COOPERATION

Article 36. Cooperation. Within the framework of its responsibilities, the *Committee* shall always take into account that the *Convention* and the *Follow-up Mechanism* have as their purposes the need to promote and strengthen cooperation among the *States Parties* for preventing, detecting, punishing and eradicating corruption.

Taking into account the previous paragraph, the *Committee*:

- a) Mindful of the information that it receives from the *States Parties* for its review of the implementation of the measures foreseen in the *Convention* and, in its country and final reports, shall prepare specific recommendations on programs, projects and types of cooperation that will allow States to progress in those specific areas that are referred to in the reports or to search for more effective review measures.
- b) In addition to the consideration and adoption of the country and final reports in accordance with the procedures prescribed in these *Rules*, shall also include the consideration of those collective interest issues related to the *Committee's*

responsibilities in trying to determine specific actions that will allow the strengthening of cooperation among them within the framework of the *Convention*.

In achieving this purpose, may invite specialists to present the results of their research or investigations in specific areas or recommend the preparation of certain studies, researches or analyses that will allow a greater number review criteria to be available for the consideration of a specific issue.

- c) Based on the information received as a result of the review of the implementation of the provisions of the *Convention* by the *States Parties* and the issues that are referred to in the previous paragraph, shall consider and prepare recommendations in regards to the areas in which technical cooperation activities; the exchange of information, experience and best practices; and the harmonization of the legislation of the *States Parties* should be facilitated to promote the implementation of the *Convention* and contribute to its purposes established in article II.
- d) In accordance with the provision 7(c) of the *Report of Buenos Aires*, and mindful of the purposes of the *Follow-up Mechanism* and in the framework of the Inter-American Program for Co-operation in the Fight against Corruption, shall strive to cooperate with all OAS Member States, taking account of the activities already under way within the Organization, and shall report to the Conference of States Parties thereon.

Likewise, it shall undertake a systematic consideration of the issues involved in cooperation and assistance among *States Parties* in order to identify the areas where technical cooperation is needed and the most appropriate methods for the collection of useful data to review such cooperation and assistance. This work shall take into account of the provisions of Articles XIII through XVI and XVIII of the *Convention*.

VII. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

Article 37. Entry into force, publicity and amendment of the *Rules*. These *Rules* shall enter into force upon their adoption by the *Committee* and the *Committee* may amend these *Rules* through the consensus of the lead experts of the *Follow-up Mechanism*, or in the event that no consensus is reached, these *Rules* may be amended through a vote of two-thirds of the said lead experts present in favor of said amendment.

The Secretariat shall communicate these *Rules* to the Permanent Mission to the OAS of each State Party, and shall publish them via the *Internet* and by any other means of communication.