



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

*ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE*

SPAI RSLO's

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL – JUNE 2005

Sarajevo, BiH

JULY, 2005



Structure of the report

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APRIL -JUNE 2005

I. INTRODUCTION

During the analyzed interval the Regional Secretariat, in close cooperation with its traditional partners Stability Pact Office of the Special Coordinator, USAID and ABA CEELI, focused on the proper implementation of the SPAI Steering Group Decision to prepare and organize the **Expert and Ministerial Conference to Curb Corruption in South Eastern Europe**. The event took place in Brussels, May 11 -12, within the European Parliament premises and brought together ministers, ambassadors, EU Commissioner, business community, civil society representatives, press and over 120 experts from South Eastern Europe, donor countries and partner organizations.

The topics of the two days event, the high level attendance, as well as the concrete outcome of the Conference – Ministerial declaration - proved the quality of the SPAI RSLO performance in designing this activity, planning and coordinating the overall implementation of the specific actions required.

The organization of the High level Conference in Brussels did not affect or undermine the implementation of the SPAI RSLO Workplan. Additional programmatic & capacity development activities were conducted: a thematic seminar on Anticorruption Legal/Instruments was conducted in partnership with the Council of Europe, the SPAI Resource Center was updated with recent legislative and institutional developments, the WEB site was officially launched and series of bilateral meetings were held. In addition to this, RSLO staff participated within activities initiated by partner organization as OECD, USAID, EBRD, SPOC etc.

Furthermore the SPAI RSLO dissemination campaign was further improved by issuing new promotional materials as leaflets, folders, notebooks, annual SPAIgram etc.

The current report is analyzing the main activities conducted by the SPAI RSLO, highlighting, objective by objective, the activities carried out and the results achieved both in programmatic and organizational development areas.

The financial section of the report provides an **overview** of the SPAI RSLO's resources and expenses during the last three months.



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II. PROGRAMATIC ACTIVITIES

The report under current section is structured in two parts:

- SPAI RSLO Programmatic objectives, activities and results
- SPAI partner activities and SPAI RSLO involvement

2.1. SPAI RSLO PROGRAMATIC OBJECTIVES ENVISAGED WITHIN THE SPAI RSLO WORKPLAN, ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AND THE RESULTS

Objective 1 – Supporting the process of adoption and implementation of the UN Convention against corruption by the SPAI COUNTRIES

Objective 1.2 - Identifying the additional follow-up activities

- SPAI RSLO organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe a Regional Thematic Seminar on Application of Treaty Law, COE and UN Conventions against Corruption, 10-11. June, Durres, Albania. The event, component of the PACO Impact Program implemented by the Council of Europe was dedicated to the experts in treaty law and addressed the mandatory steps that are to be taken by the countries of the region in implementing the UN Convention against Corruption and Council of Europe Civil and Criminal Law Convention
- For this event RSLO Anticorruption Expert developed a comprehensive compliance matrix regarding the current anticorruption international legal instruments. The matrix was filled in by all project areas and can be subject of future improvement in cooperation with the Council of Europe and UNODC. Also for this event, the anticorruption expert designed a status chart highlighting the necessary steps required for each country in order to ensure the implementation of the respective Conventions
- As additional contribution of the RSLO, the office undertaken the necessary measures in order to ensure the participation of the UNODC expert, Ms. Valerie Lebaux.
- During the meeting the RSLO representatives played a pivotal role delivering the opening speech and concluding remarks (Executive Secretary) and moderating the sessions and working groups on UN Convention against Corruption (Anticorruption expert).
- As a conclusion of this event, RSLO was further encouraged to continue to organize regional events regarding the UN Convention against Corruption. Concrete proposals:
 - to organize a follow up event regarding the Second chapter of the Convention – preventive measures;
 - to co-organize with UNODC a pre-ratification regional Conference for the SEE countries.



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Objective 1.3 - UN Convention against corruption awareness campaign

- RSLO continued the cooperation with UNODC in promoting the Anticorruption video clips in the region;
- Still no further progress was notified by the SPAI countries in the process of promoting the videoclips.

Objective 1.4 - Development of the "compliance matrix"

- The first compliance matrix was filled in by Moldova and Romania;
- As contribution to the Joint event on Application of Treaty Law, organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe, all SPAI member countries provided inputs for the Comprehensive compliance matrix. RSLO requested the countries to continue the process of filling in the detailed version of the matrix.
- A tentative deadline for receiving the matrixes is October 2005.

Objective 2 - Developing and coordinating a Regional Anticorruption Program for Raising Public Awareness

Objective 2.1 - Developing the project outline and fund raising

- SPAI RSLO is analyzing the possibility of organizing a Regional Start up workshop regarding the anticorruption awareness campaigns –design, message and impact.

Objective 2.2 - Updating and distributing the SPAI gram

- SPAI RSLO published new presentation materials: folders, leaflets, notebooks, pencils;
- SPAI RSLO also issued and distributed region wide the annual SPAIgram and additional FLASH SPAIgrams covering the SPAI Chairman visit to Bucharest and the Regional Seminar organized in Durres, Albania;
- SPAI RSLO, Stability Pact Office of the Special Coordinator, ABA CEELI and USAID ensured a region wide distribution of the annual SPAIgram in electronic format and hardcopy. The Annual SPAIgram was also distributed by the ABA CEELI during the Global Forum IV organized in Brazil.

Objective 2.3 - Maintaining and regularly updating the official web site of the SPAI

- the SPAI gram and additional updated information about SPAI and SPAI RSLO are available on internet at: www.spai-rslo.org and www.stabilitypact.org
- The new SPAI RSLO web page was officially launched during a special session of the High level event organized in May 2005, in Brussels;



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Objective 3 - Sharing best practices in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high level corruption cases in SPAI Countries

Objective 3.2 - publishing a report on best practices in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high level corruption cases

- During the Regional workshop agreement was reached to edit together a booklet regarding the event in Podgorica, based on the case studies presented by the participants, relevant legislative provisions and statistical data. The booklet will be prepared by the SPAI Regional Office and its international partners and widely distributed within the SPAI countries;
- As no feedback and updated information were received from the countries with regard to content of the booklet RSLO is considering the possibility to postpone the editing of this booklet until the next event within the Project on Fighting high level corruption;
- A first chapter of the booklet will incorporate the results of the joint activities conducted by the State prosecutors from Montenegro and USKOK following the visit that is to be conducted to Zagreb in September 2005.
- Romanian Minister of Justice requested this manual to be edited and translated also in Romanian language.

Objective 3.3 - identifying and implementing follow up activities based on the requests made by the SPAI countries

- The national delegations expressed their interest in identifying future follow-ups particularly focused on specific economic and financial areas such as privatization process, public procurement, conflict of interest, financing political parties.
- SPAI RSLO developed a project proposal which includes a series of follow up workshops addressing the aspects identified by the participants. SPAI RSLO is currently conducting fund raising activities in order to ensure the proper financial support for this project;
- Based on a specific request received from Montenegro, RSLO will organize in September 2005, the Regional conference on fighting high level corruption in public procurement.



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Objective 4 - Assessment of the regional anticorruption needs and specific requirements

Objective 4.1 - Developing the template for gathering the information

- According to the decision of the 7th SPAI Steering Group, the Anticorruption expert developed the progress report template as a standard reporting tool. The template covers the information provided by SPAI countries during the previous 6 months, the latest developments (structured under the 5 SPAI pillars), *future activities in SPAI countries and the envisaged role of the SPAI RSLO.*

Objective 4.2 - Requesting and centralizing the information

- During the 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting all member countries delivered progress reports but only 5 countries provided the information structured according to the template.

Objective 4.2 - Drafting the report on the findings of the assessment

- Complementing the Scoping paper which is still due to be published by OECD, SPAI RSLO conducted a regional tour aiming to gather the requests for assistance from the member countries. Following the on site visits of the RSLO's Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert, a series of pragmatic requests were addressed;
- The findings were fully incorporated within the Ministerial Declaration on Joint measures to curb corruption in SEE, signed by all SPAI countries in Brussels.

2.2 SPAI PARTNER ACTIVITIES AND SPAI RSLO INVOLVEMENT

5th SPOC Board meeting, Dubrovnik, 8-th April, 2005

SPAI RSLO received for the first time the invitation to attend the SPOC Board meeting. The invitation was accepted by the RSLO's Executive Secretary. During the meeting the Executive Secretary presented the role and the mission of the Secretariat altogether with the outcomes of the first RSLO Regional tour. Further on, the presentation was directed towards informing the participants about the preparations and purposes of the Ministerial Conference that was planned to be organized in Brussels in May 2005.

Also, RSLO Executive Secretary used the opportunity to discuss with SPOC Chairman about the SPOC Regional Tour, as well as the joint activities and projects in the future.

The main objectives of the SPOC Board meeting were:



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- Strengthening the role of the SPOC Secretariat to become a focal point for project facilitation;
- Deepening the dialog with the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council on the design of future regional programs against organized crime;
- Intensifying coordinated engagement in SEE;
- Assisting the transformation and upgrade of the SECI center;
- Cross border co-operation.

13 th Invest Compact Project Team Meeting, May 3rd, 2005

SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary attended the meeting and initiated with this occasion the cooperation process between the SPAI and Invest Compact Project. During the panel discussion Executive Secretary presented the RSLO's mission, programmatic activities, achievements, next events and also emphasised the link between corruption and business / investment climate. This event was also the opportunity for the beginning of the cross table cooperation between WT II and WT III.

The main topics of the Invest Compact meeting were:

- Informing about progress on policy reform in SEE countries;
- The summary progress report on the Invest Compact Strategy 2005-2006;
- Private sector views on reform progress and network of Foreign Investor Councils;
- Introduction of report "The Impact of FDI on Employment and Human Resources" and preparation for the 2005 Ministerial meeting on Investment and Trade.

Regional Table and Working Table III meeting, Sofia, 17-18 May

RSLO Executive Secretary attended both meetings. The Working Table III meeting was focused on the issues on defence conversion, renewed efforts by relevant international organizations regarding an initiative on military budget transparency, updated information on recent developments of the MARRI (Migration Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative) Regional Forum, and transfer DPPI (Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative) to the regional ownership.

The meeting of the Regional Table was conducted to the discussion about developing and transforming SP Initiatives from the regional ownership to the regional leadership.

One of the conclusions of the meeting regarding the RSLO's role in coordinating the anticorruption activities within the region, was that the Secretariat is fully operational and staffed with the experts from the SEE, with the strong political leadership of the



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Steering Group, where the countries of the region are tending to take on the greater funding role in the RSLO activities.

EBRD Annual Meeting and Business Forum 2005, Belgrade, 22-23 May

The event was attended by over 2000 participants, including representatives of the Governments, business community, investors, as well as civil and NGO sector. During the EBRD 2005 Annual Meeting, during the session titled "Less corruption: more viable investment", four distinguished panelists, including the RSLO Executive Secretary, shared their experiences and reflect on the cost of corruption. The complete panel discussion was distributed to the participant on video tapes, and conclusions of the meeting were put on the official EBRD web site www.ebrd.org/new/am/index.htm.

6th General Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Network for Transition Economies (ACN) - 30-31 May, Istanbul

RSLO was represented by the Anticorruption expert. Even if it was not involved directly with an official contribution to the agenda RSLO was present within the majority of the national presentations as well as within the remarks made by OECD (ref. to the transfer of the Secretariat) and UNODC (joint program on promoting the UN Convention against corruption);

The remarks were positive highlighting recent achievements of the Initiative: the business environment event in Brussels, the Ministerial declaration, the compliance matrix etc;

The meeting offered a very good opportunity to establish or to strengthen the bilateral relation between RSLO and SPAI partners. Anticorruption expert had fruitful bilateral meetings with representatives of ABA CEELI, World Bank, OECD, TI, Freedom House, OSI.

Main topics on the agenda

- Monitoring the Implementation of Anti-Corruption Conventions;
- Specialized Anti-Corruption Institutions;
- Assessing Trends in Corruption and Impact of Anti-Corruption Measures;
- Political Corruption;
- ACN Work Program 2005-2006.



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International Conference on Crossing Border Co-operation in the South Adriatic: Concrete Steps toward European Integration, Dubrovnik, 29-30 June

The event was organized by East West Institute Center for Border Co-operation in cooperation with COE and SP for SEE

The main topic of this event, organized by East West Institute - Center for Border Co-operation, CoE and SP, was the discussion on perspectives for Southern Adriatic Cross Border Co-operation as the tool for regional development, security and European integration. The mayors of the municipalities Dubrovnik (Republic of Croatia), Trebinje (BiH), Herceg Novi and Kotor (Serbia nad Montenegro) signed the Agreement to establish the Southern Adriatic Natural Resources Management and Emergency Response Commission. During the event it was also presented the Tri – lateral Protocol for Border Crossing in Humanitarian or Emergency Situations.

Executive Secretary used this opportunity to inform the auditorium about RSLO's mission, programmatic activities, achievements and next events. One of the conclusions of the Conference was that the engagement of the countries in the anticorruption activities, was recognized as the one of the main preconditions in the process of stabilization and integration of SEE countries to the European Union.

III. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This section includes information about the activities carried out by SPAI RSLO staff in order to ensure the efficient functioning and of the Office sustainability. The information is structured according to the five major objectives set forth within the SPAI RSLO WORKPLAN FOR 2004 – 2005.

OBJECTIVE 1– SPAI RSLO - THE SECRETARIAT OF SPAI

Objective 1.1 - Organization of the Steering Group Meetings;

- No Steering group meeting was scheduled during this interval;
- Currently RSLO, ABA CEELI and USAID are analyzing the possibility of organizing the 9th SPAI Steering Group in Chisinau, Moldova. An official proposal was received in this regard from the Moldavian SPAI Senior Representative, Mr. Anatolie Donciu.



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Objective 1.2 - Implementing the decisions made by the Steering Group;

- Currently RSLO is taking the necessary measures in order to implement the decisions adopted by the Steering Group in Bucharest:
 - **To organize SPAI High Level Meeting in May – achieved**
- **To further implement the Project on UN Convention against Corruption.** The following activities were conducted:
 - **Monitoring the Sarajevo Calendar – achieved.** The countries of the region commit themselves to sign, ratify and start implementing the UN Convention within one year (first measure within the Ministerial Declaration);
 - **Compliance matrix – work in progress.** The first questionnaire was developed and distributed. The countries are asked to provide detailed information about the legislative and institutional measures adopted regarding the preventive measures, criminalization and law. Moldova and Romania answered so far. Also, all SPAI countries provided inputs for the Comprehensive compliance matrix developed for the thematic Seminar on Treaty law; (see objective 1.2 and 1.4)
 - **To organize follow up workshop – achieved.** The treaty law workshop organized in June 10 – 11, 2005, Albania;
- **To further implement the Project on Fighting High Level Corruption.** The following activities were conducted:
 - RSLO requested the senior representatives to provide additional inputs for the booklet on best practices in fighting high level corruption in SPAI countries.
 - **Follow up workshop – High level corruption cases in connection with the public procurement – September 2005.**
- **To build the SPAI Anticorruption Resource Center - achieved.** RSLO is currently updating the following components:
 - **ANTICORRUPTION LIBRARY**
 - **ANTICORRUPTION NETWORK**
 - **ANTICORRUPTION PROJECTS**
 - **ANTICORRUPTION CALENDAR**
- **To support draft the Terms of reference for the Annual SPAI Award - work is in progress.**



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Objective 1.3 - Monitoring the implementation of the work plan and of additional specific tasks and providing on regular bases progress reports to the Steering Group

- **Work in progress.** SPAI RSLO will draft the follow up workplan for 2006 – 2007. The document will be subject of approval during the 9th SPAI Steering group Meeting.
- Additionally, RSLO is providing the Chairman, Stability Pact WT III Director and SPAI partners with periodic updates on activities undertaken by the office.

Objective 1.4 - Taking over and maintaining the administrative and historical files of the SPAI - achieved.

Objective 2 - BUILDING THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DEVELOPING THE RESEARCH AND INFORMATION CENTRE

In achieving this objective SPAI RSLO developed specific questionnaires and template reports which were distributed to the experts participating within the events organized by the Office. The information gathered is centralized by the Anticorruption Expert and structured according to the SPAI RSLO Workplan in the **Regional Anticorruption Resource Center**

Objective 3 - ENHANCING THE REGIONAL CAPACITIES TO COOPERATE AND INTERACT

Objective 3.1 - Organizing the Annual SPAI Conference

- The meeting was organized In Brussels, May 11-12 2005. (*see attached the final agenda, list of participants, Ministerial Declaration and photo album*)

Objective 3.2 - Regional or national workshops

- RSLO organized a follow-up workshop on UN Convention against Corruption – June 10-11, in Durres, Albania;

Objective 3.2 - Regional exchange of anticorruption experts

- RSLO took all necessary measures to organize the visit of the Montenegrin State Prosecutor's Office to the Anticorruption body from Croatia – USKOK. The visit is planned for September 6-9, 2005.



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Objective 4 - FUNDRAISING AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE RSLO

Objective 4.1 - Identify fundable programs within RSLO's strategic portfolio

- According to the decision of the SPAI Steering Group, RSLO elaborated and submitted to potential donors a document containing areas within RSLO workplan that are requiring additional financial support. This areas are:
 - o *Law enforcement anticorruption trainings*
 - o *SPAI RSLO internship program*
 - o *Moldova delegation expenses for attending the SPAI RSLO events*
- Out of the above mentioned projects, the internship program received a positive answer from the Norwegian Government. Currently RSLO is waiting for the financial transfer. Within this project, RSLO received a proposal from Croatia, to include Mr. Ivan Crnčec, within the 3 months internship program;
- SPAI RSLO also developed in cooperation with RIBA a project on Small grants for the civil society sector

Objective 4.4 - Engage in dialogue with potential donors, write and submit proposals

- Please see objective 4.1.

Objective 5 - INSTITUTION-BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAM

- NO training session was scheduled for this three months;

IV. BILATERAL MEETINGS

During the last three months SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert had a series of meetings with current and potential partners.

- **Official visit of the SPAI Chairman, 13-14. April, Bucharest**

On 14th of April 2005 the SPAI Chairman, Professor Ugo DRAETTA, met the main Romanian authorities having responsibilities in judicial reform and fight against corruption. His visit in Romania had been agreed by dr. Erhard Busek, EU Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for SEE, with the newly installed officials as a contribution to the Romanian efforts to fulfill the obligations assumed within the accession process concerning judicial reform and anticorruption measures. The Chairman was accompanied by Mr. Sorin Sterie, expert coordinating the initiatives on anticorruption, fighting organized crime and counterterrorism



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within the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Stability Pact in SEE and Mr. Cornel – Virgiliu Calinescu, Anticorruption legal expert within the Sarajevo-based Regional SPAI Office (RSLO).

On April 13, in preparing the Chairman's visit, RSLO anticorruption expert and SP expert met with the Romanian Minister of Justice and with the new SPAI Senior representative.

- **Meeting with Regional Director of USAID, Budapest , 3-rd May, 2005**
RSLO Executive Secretary met with Mr. Ray Kirkland, Regional Director of USAID and Mrs. Kutor, USAID Local Governance and Stability Pact Coordinator .

The mutual conclusion was that, so far, USAID and RSLO had very fruitfull cooperation, which tend to further develop and intensify in the future as well. Executive Secretary informed the USAID representatives about RSLO next events, especially regarding the Ministerial Conference in Brussels.

- **May, Sarajevo – Meeting with Mr. Claudio Santorium and ABA CEELI May 5th, 2005**
RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption expert used this opportunity to share the plans for the near future. Potential cooperation between the two organizations were identified within the „twinning projects“ planned by RSLO. RSLO will further discuss the issue with the ABA Office in Sarajevo and explore the possibilities of organizing a joint event.
- **Meeting with Mr. Keith Crawford, USAID Democratization specialist, Sarajevo, 31. May**
The main topics of the meeting were the RSLO achievements up to date, plans and RIBA assistance in the RSLO projects.

After Executive Secretary's presentation on RSLO activities, Mr. Crawford stated that he was impressed with the RSLO achievements in the last one year having in mind that the team was small (only three members), and recognized the RSLO as a regional organization capable to organize and conduct different anticorruption activities.

It was concluded that the further expansion of the team was welcomed in order to maintain a high standard of performance and a greater impact in the region. The RSLO will continue their fundraising efforts to achieve this and further USAID assistance in this respect would be highly valued.



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- **Official visit of Mr. Hubert Pirker, SPOC Chairman, Sarajevo, 1-3 June**

During the SPOC Charman's Regional tour, RSLO was involved in technical support and arranging contact with representatives of the relevant BiH institutions, who were in charge of the corruption and organized crime. Together with the SPOC Chairman, RSLO Executive Secretary attended the meetings with representatives of Parliamentary Joint Committee for Defence and Security Issues, Prosecutor's office and Ministry of Security. During the meetings, besides the acknowledgement of the RSLO regional role in anticorruption area it is important to emphasize that the RSLO was recognized as the relevant counterpart in the future cooperation, especially with the Parliamentary Joint Committee for Defence and Security Issues.

- **Meeting with Mrs. Susan Kutor, USAID Local Governance and Stability Pact Coordinator and Mr. Michael Henning, Director of USAID Democracy Office, Sarajevo, 23 June**

Executive Secretary generally informed USAID representatives about RSLO activities that will be undertaken by the end of 2005, and especially stressed the importance of the "Regional Conference on Efficient Implementation of European Standards in Public Procurement: Legislative Framework and best Practices", that would be held in Montenegro (September, 2005), and Steering Group meeting in Moldova (October, 2005).

Also, it was raised up the question about the further financing the RSLO activities by the partner countries, especially to try to involve SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency) that already had contacts and cooperation made with USAID. In terms of enlargement of the group of the SPAI countries it was emphasized the great importance of the engagement of Bulgaria in future SPAI activities.

V. SPAI RSLO SUPPORT FOR THE SPAI CHAIRMAN

- **Assessment questionnaire from the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact..** SPAI RSLO team provided the SPAI Chairman with the necessary inputs for the Questionnaire addressed to the Working Table Task Forces and SP Initiatives by the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact, Dr. Erhard Busek. On behalf of SPAI the final answer was reviewed, completed and submitted by the SPAI Chairman to the WT III Director. The questionnaire is part of a comprehensive assessment of regional ownership, as the Stability Pact Secretariat is conducting a survey about the operation of all the Task forces and Initiatives.



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- **Outcomes of the SPAI RSLO contribution regarding the monitoring mechanism of the UN Convention against Corruption.** Following the contribution provided by the RSLO anticorruption expert – summary on SPAI monitoring mechanism – reviewed, completed and submitted to the Working group by the SPAI Chairman, a comparative analyse was elaborated. The document is a starting point in elaborating a proposalr regarding the UNCAC monitoring mechanism.