

The Riyadh Initiative

Informal cooperation with foreign law enforcement counterparts has proven to be a useful addition to formal international cooperation such as mutual legal assistance, particularly in the preliminary stages of investigations, and provides a quick, agile and efficient toolkit for combating cross-border corruption offences and transfers of proceeds of crime.

While recognizing the value of formal cooperation channels and procedures, we acknowledge the importance of informal means of cooperation and exchange of information between law enforcement authorities that have been highlighted in international treaties and standards, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Standards. The experience with existing communication networks and platforms, such as the INTERPOL channel for police-to-police communication or the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, has proven the importance and effectiveness of informal communication, not least through significant contributions in the realm of cross-border law enforcement.

In this regard, we, the G20 Ministers with responsibilities for preventing and combating corruption, per our pledge as G20 countries to lead by example, believe it is time to take the next step in strengthening cross-border law enforcement cooperation, and hereby welcome the launch of **the Riyadh Initiative**. Through this initiative, participating countries seek to strengthen communication, exchange and peer learning between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities by bringing them together in a global network.

Building on the gap analysis provided in the *Scoping Paper on International Cooperation Dealing with Economic Crime, Offenders and the Recovery of Stolen Assets*, by the OECD in collaboration with the FATF Secretariat, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Bank Group (WBG), and building on the concept note provided by UNODC, on the creation of a *Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities* ([Annex E](#)) for the purpose of building and enhancing direct contact between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities, we:

1. Welcome the launch of the Riyadh Initiative, supported by UNODC, towards the creation of a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, through:
 - a. Establishing a Vienna-based network of anti-corruption law enforcement authorities;
 - b. Establishing an online one-stop hub for the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, including a secure communication platform for information sharing between anti-corruption authorities, maintained by UNODC;
 - c. Developing knowledge and capacity within the network through organizing anti-corruption training programs and production of policy papers, guidebooks, publications and tools, and collection of data; and
 - d. Organizing regular meetings for anti-corruption law enforcement practitioners and anti-corruption experts, to share information, as a forum for case discussions as appropriate, and to enhance informal anti-corruption

cooperation mechanisms, with the possibility of including once a year back-to-back meetings with other anti-corruption law enforcement networks such as the OECD Global Law Enforcement Network or the INTERPOL/StAR Global Focal Point Network.

2. Commit to supporting and reinforcing existing law enforcement networks, as appropriate, such as those of the OECD and INTERPOL, and call upon our international partners, including UNODC, OECD, INTERPOL, WBG, International Monetary Fund (IMF), FATF, and the Egmont Group, as well as regional anti-corruption networks, to enhance synergies and improve coordination and collaboration between existing and to be established anti-corruption networks.
3. Invite countries and other donors to make contributions, on a voluntary basis, to support informal information-sharing networks to ensure their continuity and effective implementation, including, but not limited to, the Riyadh Initiative towards the creation of a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities.