



CONCEPT NOTE

# Riyadh Initiative towards the Creation of a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities



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## 1 Setting the stage

### Objective

Creation of a global network for the purpose of establishing and enhancing direct contact between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities, empowering a wider range of countries to engage in informal international cooperation, and complementing the other existing platforms for such cooperation, to be introduced at the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting in Riyadh (October 2020).

### Background

Corruption and complex money laundering-related cases generally require cooperation beyond domestic borders. The importance of quick responses to foreign requests for international cooperation in criminal matters is widely recognized by practitioners, and the importance of informal assistance that speeds up cooperation has been emphasized in numerous international agreements, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (Anti-Bribery

Convention) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and regional anti-corruption conventions.

Article 48 of UNCAC requires that States parties cooperate closely with one another in their law enforcement activities, in pursuit of the common goal of effectively combating corruption and related offences, including the laundering of proceeds of corruption. Relevant measures include the establishment or enhancement of adequate channels of communication, cooperation in conducting inquiries, exchange of information concerning the means and methods used by offenders, facilitating effective coordination, and entering into agreements or arrangements on direct cooperation between law enforcement agencies.<sup>1</sup> Similar provisions can be found in other or regional instruments, i.e. OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the Council of Europe’s Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and the Arab Convention Against Corruption.

As criminals operate internationally, successful anti-corruption efforts often depend on assistance from foreign jurisdictions, a process that is slowed and complicated by differences in legal traditions, laws and procedures, and varied capacities. Many practitioners immediately resort to drafting a mutual legal assistance (MLA) request when they determine that international cooperation is required. However, some important information and assistance can be obtained more quickly through informal channels. Informal assistance can lead to a more rapid identification of criminals and assets, confirm the assistance needed, and provide the proper foundation for an MLA request. Such requests that are coordinated among foreign anti-corruption or competent law enforcement authorities, in advance of submission to designated central authorities, stand better chances of being handled promptly and efficiently. Informal communication channels can also be used to share information proactively and spontaneously without a prior request, as emphasized in article 56 of UNCAC on “Special cooperation”. The first two boxes of the below graphic illustrate forms of assistance typically obtainable through informal assistance, which could be obtained through contacts established in the anti-corruption network.

Excerpt from: Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), Asset Recovery Handbook: A Guide for Practitioners (2011), see pages 121-137, available at: <https://star.worldbank.org/star/publication/assetrecovery-handbook>

### Informal Assistance and Formal MLA Requests—What Can Be Requested?



\* Either informal assistance or formal MLA request (or both), depending on the jurisdiction.

\*\*May not require formal MLA request for the initial order, but will require one to retain the order.

<sup>1</sup> See also resolutions 3/3, 4/4, 5/3, and 8/1 of the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC.

## Added value and relevance

**A Global Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities Operational Network** will facilitate cooperation between anti-corruption agencies with a law enforcement mandate and will complement existing networks, including the INTERPOL/StAR Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery (GFPN), ARINs such as the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-agency Network (CARIN), the OECD WGB biannual meetings of Law Enforcement Officials (LEO) and biennial meetings of the WGB Global Network of Law Enforcement Practitioners against Transnational Bribery, and the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

The anti-corruption network is not intended to replace existing channels but rather to offer an additional channel for anti-corruption law enforcement authorities which they may opt to choose depending on their case scenarios and pursuant to relevant domestic laws. The “police driven” GFPN focuses on assisting practitioners in overcoming operational barriers associated with criminal asset recovery, and the “FIU driven” Egmont Group facilitates cooperation and intelligence sharing between national financial intelligence units. The OECD WGB LEO and Global Network meetings focus on transnational bribery issues and bring together law enforcement officials (police and prosecutors) of the 44 Parties to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention who are directly involved in the investigation and prosecution of transnational bribery cases. These existing channels, though effective on specific issues or in some regions, have certain legal, technical and geographical limitations. Firstly, a significant number of anti-corruption authorities with law enforcement mandates, due to their independent status, are precluded from or reluctant to share information via INTERPOL or other police driven networks. Secondly, many countries face issues of capacity, inadequate human, financial and technical resources, and barriers to existing networks. Anti-corruption agencies in these countries, in particular developing countries, have few or rather no channels to connect and receive practical guidance and assistance in undertaking their law enforcement functions. Thirdly, most of the existing networks have limited membership and cannot fully sustain international cooperation on a global basis.

In order to build on existing networks and at the same time to facilitate greater access for more countries, the proposed network aims to have a broader anti-corruption scope and to enhance cooperation between law enforcement anti-corruption entities (in line with article 36 of UNCAC), including the non-police model ones,<sup>2</sup> and the competent law enforcement authorities, in criminal, civil or administrative corruption proceedings.<sup>3</sup> Information obtained from States with regard to the implementation of article 36 of UNCAC in the course of the UNCAC Implementation Review process may be used as a useful guideline on relevant authorities that could join the network. Information

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<sup>2</sup> Article 36 of UNCAC requires States parties to ensure the existence of a body or bodies or persons specialized in combating corruption through law enforcement. The “State of implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption” prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) shows that most countries have opted for a single or central specialized anti-corruption agency, commission, bureau, directorate, department, office or task force operating either as an independent structure or within the institutional framework of the national ministry of justice, prosecutor general’s office or national police service. Other countries do not have separate, specialized anti-corruption agencies with a clearly defined role among their national institutions. Instead, they follow a more decentralized or individual approach. These countries have established special departments within the national public prosecution services, designated specialized public prosecutors in the country’s regions to investigate corruption-related cases, introduced specialized police units and investigators or economic crimes investigation structures on a regional level or set up specialized court divisions to hear cases involving corruption. A third group of countries follow a multi-agency approach, which vests responsibility for combating corruption in numerous independent agencies or law enforcement divisions scattered within various authorities or ministries (e.g., both the ministry of justice and the ministry of the interior), including in some cases agencies combating money-laundering that have law enforcement powers beyond those of a basic financial intelligence unit. [https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session7/V.17-04679\\_E-book.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session7/V.17-04679_E-book.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Article 43 of UNCAC.

obtained and gaps identified in the course of the review of articles 46 (mutual legal assistance), 48 (law enforcement cooperation), 49 (joint investigations) and 50 (special investigative techniques) of UNCAC could also provide important points of reference.

Besides regular meetings of the network for the purposes of exchange of information, discussion of cases and the building and strengthening of relationships with foreign counterparts, an online “one-stop hub” would provide network members with a platform to securely communicate and access up-to-date information relevant to anti-corruption law enforcement. In addition, the proposed network may assist participating authorities in understanding how to better utilize the existing channels/networks for international cooperation. To avoid any duplication of efforts and ensure the efficient use of existing resources, it is proposed that the anti-corruption network is developed in close consultation with the OECD Working Group on Bribery and LEO networks, INTERPOL, Eurojust, the Egmont Group, and the StAR Initiative to guarantee that the networks complement each other.

### UNODC’s comparative advantage

UNODC is ideally placed to support the establishment of such a global network:

- a. Given its mandate and its role as the guardian of UNCAC, UNODC is the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC and facilitates policy discussions on the international anti-corruption agenda and asset recovery;
- b. It has privileged access to key anti-corruption stakeholders as the secretariat for the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism and has established a long-term productive work relationship with many States parties, has sound cooperation with relevant organizations and initiatives, and maintains a network of country offices and regional offices;
- c. UNODC, especially through its joint partnership with the World Bank as part of the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, has extensive experience in: supporting similar networks and bringing practitioners together, including through organizing the Global Forum on Asset Recovery, Arab Forum on Asset Recovery and Ukraine Forum on Asset Recovery; strengthening international cooperation at global and regional levels; and providing a broad set of tailored technical assistance to States in the area of anti-corruption, international cooperation and asset recovery; and
- d. It maintains several databases of UNCAC States parties’ anti-corruption law enforcement authorities, such as the “Directory of Competent National Authorities” (CNA directory) and the “Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge” (TRACK) portal, which includes a variety of tools developed to meet the growing demands of States in the area of anti-corruption and asset recovery.

## 2 Project description

This proposal is dedicated to establishing a global network for the purpose of building and enhancing direct contact between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities, through the following three components:

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**Component 1:** Vienna-based Global Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities

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**Component 2:** Online one-stop hub for the network

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**Component 3:** Knowledge and capacity development for the network

## Component 1: Vienna-based Global Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities

Under this component, UNODC, in close cooperation with relevant partners, will organize regular annual meetings (with possible ad hoc regional meetings if needed) that bring together anti-corruption law enforcement authorities. These meetings, though not directly linked to the subsidiary bodies within the UNCAC framework, may be informed by the discussions of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery and the Open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation under UNCAC, with a view to avoiding overlapped deliberations and enhancing synergies accordingly. The network meetings might in the future be organized back-to-back with these working groups, thus connecting anti-corruption policy and practice communities. However, these meetings are not confined to merely discussing international cooperation issues in relation to the implementation of UNCAC. The participating authorities are entitled to set an agenda beyond the scope of UNCAC. Voluntary membership of the network will be open to all States parties to UNCAC and nomination of participating authorities will take place through Notes Verbales by their Foreign Ministries or respective Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Vienna. Members of the G20 are encouraged to participate in designing and setting up the network in collaboration with existing networks, and lead by example and become members themselves, which will encourage a broader membership and will provide an important momentum for its launch. It is envisaged that the practitioners with relevant knowledge, capacity and mandates in anti-corruption and law enforcement cooperation will participate in the planned meetings, potentially with virtual participation as necessary.

The meetings, which will generally be organized at UNODC's headquarters in Vienna, and supported by INTERPOL, StAR, OECD, and Egmont Group as appropriate (including by providing subject matter expertise), are expected to generate two-fold outcome: On the one hand, they will be dedicated to sharing information, discussing specific cases, and building personal and institutional relationships, in particular for the benefit of developing countries. Experience shows that case-specific sessions at the margins of meetings and the establishment of direct communication with foreign counterparts during the meetings are very effective to promote bilateral informal cooperation. In order to promote the effectiveness of such case sessions, it is envisaged to allocate adequate resources to helping participating authorities prepare accordingly.

On the other hand, these meetings will be an opportunity to further strengthen international cooperation through the sharing of good practices, lessons learned, and available tools for the various stages of investigating corruption cases. Furthermore, these meetings may help participating authorities exchange views on how to better use the existing networks or to engage more in regular bilateral cooperation pertaining to their needs. A pertinent agenda can be set up by the participating countries on issues of common concern and interest, such as those recommended by the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group. UNODC will use the existing infrastructure and meeting facilities of the United Nations in Vienna to service the opening meeting and, at the request of interested countries, set up and/or facilitate side/bilateral meetings, taking into account the confidentiality requirements of such meetings.

Preparatory works will start in the last quarter of 2020 and the first meeting of the network is envisaged to take place in September 2021. With a view to developing the modalities of the network and prepare the setup, an initial expert group meeting will be organized, ideally in a semi-virtual format (time tbc). Participants would include anti-corruption law enforcement practitioners from the members of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, two representatives per regional group of the United Nations, and representatives of other relevant international organizations and networks, including INTERPOL, Egmont Group, StAR, OECD, and ARIN networks, with a view determining a

framework of operational procedures and policies for the global network, drawing on lessons/good practices/challenges learned and avoiding duplication with existing networks or channels.

## Component 2: Online one-stop hub for the network

To facilitate cooperation and communication among network members, exchange information, discuss cases and access information relevant to anti-corruption law enforcement, including legislation, case law and other databases and communication fora, a secure online platform will complement the network meetings. UNODC will provide technical and operational services on building an online one-stop hub for the global operational network, which provides a secure communication channel and links together existing UNODC resources, such as the online directory of competent national authorities under UNCAC or the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge in one central new location.

One feature of the platform will be a “decision tree”, providing practitioners with a one-stop hub which compiles relevant information on existing networks and assists the requesting agency with finding the right foreign counterpart and choosing the optimal channel to establish contact, such as the Egmont Group for FIUs or the INTERPOL channel for police. The one-stop hub may also provide public contact details of specific authorities maintained by relevant international organizations and networks, such as the Egmont Group.

In practice, many anti-corruption authorities under article 36 of UNCAC do not have access to existing communication channels, due to the issue of operational independence raised by many “non-police” anti-corruption authorities which have prevented some of those entities from fully engaging for example with the GFPN. Furthermore, law enforcement authorities in many countries cannot exchange information with other non-law enforcement entities or law enforcement authorities without sufficient justification. In addition, anti-corruption law enforcement covers broad mandates and often involves other cross-cutting issues, such as the laundering of proceeds of corruption, and may thus require the use of a specific channel for a specific purpose. For example, some financial intelligence units, having law enforcement powers, may prefer using the Egmont channel instead of the INTERPOL channel.

The one-stop hub aims to address the above limitations or fragmentation of the communication among anti-corruption law enforcement authorities by providing an additional communication channel and an array of options for communication for informal international cooperation, including providing contact details of law enforcement authorities to facilitate their direct exchange of intelligence through appropriate means.<sup>4</sup> It offers a practical tool designed to finding tailored solutions in international cooperation for participating authorities pursuant to their domestic laws.

In 2019, UNODC has begun establishing an encrypted secure communication platform to facilitate direct communication between practitioners having accounts to the Directory of competent national authorities under UNCAC (CNA directory, see below for more information).<sup>5</sup> This communication platform aims to support consultations among the central and competent authorities with a view to solving practical problems and addressing barriers in international cooperation. However, such consultations will be conducted in accordance with domestic laws or regulations in relation to law enforcement confidentiality and cooperation protocols. This platform will be integrated into the new one-stop hub and will complement the databases that contain other practical information (laws,

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<sup>4</sup> The contact details pertaining to various authorities can be accessed at the Directory of competent national authorities under UNCAC.

<sup>5</sup> The technical issues in managing information and data will be closely examined in the development phase.

contacts and resources) that practitioners need. The platform can be used to share information spontaneously and upon request. Funding for this platform has been provided by a donor, but to ensure its maintenance and increased functionalities over the coming years, further voluntary funding may be required.

## Databases

The following databases will be integrated into or connected with the one-stop hub:

### *Directory of competent national authorities under UNCAC*

The online directory of competent national authorities under UNCAC (CNA directory) allows easy access to the contact information of competent national authorities designated under the Convention.

The directory contains the contact information of authorities authorized to receive, respond to and process requests for:



- Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (Central Authority for Mutual Legal Assistance)
- Extradition (Central Authority for Extradition)
- Asset Recovery (Asset Recovery Focal Point)
- Prevention of Corruption (Prevention Authority)
- Cooperation in the Use of Civil and Administrative Proceedings Relating to Corruption (Focal Point for International Cooperation in the Use of Civil and Administrative Proceedings)
- In line with objectives of this proposal, a new type of authority, namely law enforcement authorities focusing on anti-corruption issues, might be added to the CNA directory pursuant to Articles 36 and 48 of UNCAC and possible mandates. Details are under discussion.

The online directory is available to competent authorities and government agencies with a user account. Currently, the directory maintains over 500 anti-corruption authorities nominated by the UNCAC States parties. As of July 2020:

- 118 States provided information about their prevention authorities;
- 130 States provided information with regard to their central authorities for mutual legal assistance;
- 82 States shared information regarding their asset recovery focal points;
- 25 States designated their central authorities for extradition; and
- 32 States designated their focal points in the use of civil and administrative proceedings relating to corruption.



The CNA directory is located on the platform of [“Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime”](#)

([SHERLOC portal](#)). SHERLOC currently used to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the three Protocols and the international legal framework against terrorism, will be developed into a one-stop hub database covering all UNODC mandates in the future.

The consolidated CNA directory on the SHERLOC platform now lists over 1000 competent national authorities designated under: (1) the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, (2) the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, (3) the United Nations Convention against Corruption and (4) other applicable legal instruments, such as Security Council resolution 2322 (2016), General Assembly resolution 68/186 and decisions 3/2 and 4/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Users, in particular anti-corruption practitioners, will be able to acquire all information on competent national authorities from SHERLOC and avoid the inconvenience of having to access such information through multiple platforms.

The SHERLOC portal is an initiative to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the three Protocols thereto and the international legal framework against terrorism.

**Hot Topics**

**Electronic Evidence**  
This section on **Electronic Evidence** provides an overview of different type of resources (links, jurisprudence, bibliographic abstracts, policies etc.) adopted at national and regional level to regulate the use and admissibility of electronic evidence in legal proceedings.

**Databases**

- Case Law Database**: A comprehensive case law database that allows you to see how Member States are tackling cases related to organized crime and terrorism in their courts.
- Database of Legislation**: An electronic repository of laws relevant to the requirements of the Organized Crime Convention, the Protocols thereto and the international legal framework against terrorism. Most of the legislation included in this database has been enacted specifically to counter the relevant crime type.
- CNA Directory**: Directory of national authorities that have been designated to receive, respond and process requests pertaining to mutual legal assistance, extradition and transfer of sentenced persons, smuggling of migrants by sea, trafficking in firearms, prevention of transnational organized crime, trafficking in cultural property, asset recovery, prevention of corruption, international cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings relating to corruption and terrorism.
- Bibliographic Database**: An annotated bibliography providing synopses of key articles on organized crime and terrorism, searchable by countries, research methods and keywords.
- Strategies**: A database containing strategic instruments on the regional and domestic implementation of the Organized Crime Convention, the
- Treaties**: A database containing the ratification status of the Organized Crime Convention, the Protocols, 19 international legal instruments against

### *Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK)*

UNODC's Anti-Corruption Portal  
[www.track.unodc.org](http://www.track.unodc.org)

Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative  
The World Bank • UNODC  
in collaboration with Microsoft

UNODC runs a web-based anti-corruption portal known as TRACK (Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge). The portal features the UNCAC Legal Library, an electronic database of legislation and jurisprudence relevant to UNCAC from over 175 States systematized in accordance with the requirements of the Convention. The TRACK portal brings together legal and non-legal knowledge on anti-corruption and asset recovery, enabling Member States, the anti-corruption community and the general public to access this information in a central location. Information in the Legal Library is searchable by country, by UNCAC article and other criteria such as legal systems and levels of human development. An anti-corruption learning platform is also incorporated, providing a common space where analytical tools generated by partner organizations can be searched and accessed by users world-wide.

A further key objective of TRACK is to create a community of practice where registered users can communicate, exchange information and schedule events. The common workspace is intended for partner institutions, anti-corruption practitioners and experts to communicate and collaborate directly with each other. In line with efforts to enhance synergies among international anti-corruption monitoring bodies, as called for in particular in Conference Resolution 7/4, this database could be further enhanced with contributions from other multilateral organizations such as the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption, the Organization of American States, the African Union,

the League of Arab States and the OECD. Currently, data contained in the TRACK database are being migrated to the SHERLOC platform.<sup>6</sup>

### Communication platforms

The proposed online one-stop hub is envisaged to provide links to the following communication platforms, and provide guidance on choosing the optimal channel to establish contact with a foreign counterpart:

#### *INTERPOL/StAR Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery (GFPN)*

The Global Focal Points Network was launched in January 2009 by INTERPOL and the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative. It provides a secure information exchange platform for the recovery of criminal assets. Authorized law enforcement officers from each member country are designated as focal points and can respond quickly when another country requires assistance. Through INTERPOL secure channels (INTERPOL's I-SECOM system launched in 2013), registered focal points can access information and contact details of other focal points and use secure email capability for police-to-police cooperation. This password-protected, encrypted channel facilitates the exchange of sensitive data and contributes to the success of investigations.

#### *OECD Networks*

Parties to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention have established several networks of anti-corruption law enforcement practitioners, supported by the OECD Secretariat, to exchange common challenges and good practices, and to develop informal contacts among this community, which has proved very useful to effective international cooperation. These OECD networks of law enforcement officials are mutually supportive and reinforcing, and contribute efficiently to enhancing international cooperation between law-enforcement practitioners and strengthening their capacities to fight complex cross-border corruption.

#### *Other relevant regional operational and liaison networks*

Other networks include the Asset Recovery Inter-agency Networks<sup>7</sup> that provide practitioners in the field of asset confiscation and recovery an opportunity to address challenges in international cooperation; the Egmont Group which is a global operational organization of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) that provides a platform for the member FIUs to securely exchange operational financial intelligence; the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC) that brings together specialist law enforcement officers from multiple agencies around the world to tackle allegations of

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<sup>6</sup> At present TRACK's partner organizations include the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption, the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, the Basel Institute on Governance, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the UNODC/World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative and the United Nations Global Compact.

<sup>7</sup> The Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network (CARIN), The Asset Recovery Interagency Network for Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP); The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for the Caribbean (ARINCARIB); The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for East Africa (ARIN-EA); The Asset Recovery Inter Agency Network for Southern Africa (ARINSA); The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa (ARIN-WA), The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network-West and Central Asia (ARIN-WCA); The Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN); and the *Red de Recuperación de Activos de GAFILAT* (RRAG).

grand corruption; and other relevant networks and forums, such as the World Bank Group's International Corruption Hunters Alliance, Europol and Eurojust.<sup>8</sup>

### *Complementarity of platforms*

The aim of the new platform is not to duplicate, but to complement existing channels and databases by providing an additional channel for those authorities that typically do not have access to other channels and thus do not yet have a secure channel to communicate with foreign counterparts. States use divergent approaches in designating their anti-corruption law enforcement authorities: while some have a single or specialized anti-corruption law enforcement agency or commission, others vest such power in different authorities, offices or departments. In practice, several authorities, in particular the independent anti-corruption commissions, may not have direct access to—or may be reluctant to go through—the INTERPOL channel and encounter significant difficulties in cooperating with their foreign counterparts. Given that the INTERPOL channel is still conceived as the main channel for police-to-police law enforcement cooperation, the one-stop hub can reinforce the use of such a channel by anticorruption authorities, which usually, given their mandate, have no direct access to the INTERPOL channel. In this context, the new communication platform attached to the CNA directory, in addition to the ARIN networks or the Egmont channel may play an important role in facilitating relevant cooperation.

### Component 3: Knowledge and capacity development for the network

Under this component, based on information compiled and lessons learned at the network's meetings, UNODC in collaboration with StAR will develop policy papers, guidebooks, and fact-based analysis and proposals on strategies and methods to advance the fight against corruption and related crimes such as money-laundering, facilitate asset recovery, and foster direct international cooperation between anticorruption law enforcement authorities. These would complement those already developed by UNODC, StAR, and other organizations such as the OECD and Egmont Group. Furthermore, UNODC will organize trainings and strengthen capacity of anti-corruption law enforcement personnel, in particular from developing countries, to engage in international cooperation, including through stronger bilateral communication, and to better use existing tools UNODC will also assist participating countries in establishing/improving national toolkits for international cooperation, such as by providing technical assistance on strengthening legislation, policies or institutional arrangements, or on the development of domestic guidelines on, inter alia, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery.

In addition, UNODC will provide services in terms of the development of legal and technical publications, tools and trainings dedicated to various areas of international cooperation, tailored to the needs of the network. Where relevant, knowledge products and trainings could be developed in cooperation with other international organizations based on their particular expertise, in particular the OECD concerning criminalization and enforcement of the foreign bribery offence.

To date, UNODC and StAR have developed a broad range of [publications, manuals, handbooks and training materials](#), including the Manual on Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition, Manual on International Cooperation for the Purposes of Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime, Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool (MLA Tool), Asset Recovery Digest, Asset Recovery Handbook, Barriers

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<sup>8</sup> For a full directory see StAR publication entitled "International Partnerships on Asset Recovery: Overview and Global Directory of Networks" available at <https://star.worldbank.org/publication/international-partnerships-asset-recovery>.

to Asset Recovery, and A Good Practice Guide for Non-conviction-based Asset Forfeiture. StAR has also facilitated development of asset recovery guides and beneficial ownership guides and has been involved in collecting information on grand corruption and asset recovery cases (Asset Recovery Watch Database). StAR has also developed in cooperation with the OECD a study on challenges and good practices in relation to MLA in transnational bribery cases.<sup>9</sup> These initiatives will be used as a basis for the development of future publications and tools and for collection of data.

Under this component, UNODC will work closely and coordinate with relevant networks/initiatives/organizations, such as INTERPOL, StAR, OECD and Egmont Group, on a regular basis to avoid any duplication and enhance synergies, including inviting these stakeholders to share their publications, project reports, case studies, and red-flag indicators, etc.

### 3 Work plan and methodology

The proposed network and platform build on existing elements which were described under the three components. The new elements which complement the existing ones will be developed and implemented in a phased approach.

#### Component 1

Vienna-based Global Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities:

- Set up and management of the Global Network
- Organization of meetings, including invitations, setting the agenda as appropriate and logistical arrangements;
- Provision of secretariat services to the meetings; and
- Liaising and coordinating with other international law enforcement networks, in particular the OECD, Egmont Group, and INTERPOL/StAR networks of law enforcement practitioners, to avoid duplication of work and enhance synergies, and to consider the relevance and feasibility of joint meetings.

#### Component 2

Online one-stop hub for the network:

- Research and collection of experiences and good practices of similar online one-stop hubs;
- Development of the online one-stop hub for the global network, including establishment and maintenance of a community of practitioners for participating anti-corruption law enforcement authorities;
- Development and maintenance of various databases and communication platforms; in coordination, where appropriate, with other international organizations; and
- Promoting the use of the online one-stop hub.

#### Component 3

Knowledge and capacity development for the network:

- Identification of relevant needs for the knowledge products and capacity building;
- Development of policy papers, guidebooks, publications and training tools, and collection of data;
- Arrange trainings to strengthen participants' capacity to engage in international cooperation; and
- Dissemination of relevant knowledge products.

A detailed workplan and methodology will be developed upon adoption of the overall concept.

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<sup>9</sup> OECD (2012), Typology on Mutual Legal Assistance in Foreign Bribery Cases: [www.oecd.org/daf/anti-bribery/TypologyMLA2012.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/daf/anti-bribery/TypologyMLA2012.pdf).