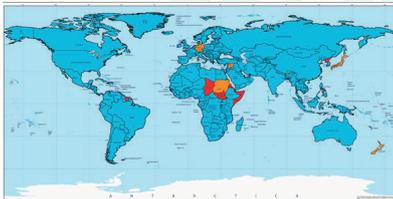




UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ **Fifth Session Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption** (Vienna, 2-6 June 2014)
- ★ **Fifth Intersessional Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Prevention** (Vienna, 8-10 September 2014)
- ★ **Eighth Intersessional Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery** (Vienna, 11-12 September 2014)
- ★ **Resumed Fifth Session Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption** (Vienna, 13-17 October 2014)

UNCAC STATUS



Announcements

Latest Accession:
State of Palestine 2 April 2014
Signatories: 140 Parties: 171



Joint declaration between civil society and government on corruption prevention in Tajikistan



In cooperation with OSCE, UNODC led a workshop in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in March 2014 aimed at establishing dialogue between

national government officials and civil society bodies on measures aimed at the prevention of corruption. Thematic discussions facilitated by UNODC officials focused on key preventive measures including conflicts of interest, asset declarations and measures to increase transparency in public administration. Group sessions based on case-studies developed by UNODC officials led to active and productive debate and agreement was reached on a joint declaration mapping future priorities in corruption prevention for Tajikistan. UNODC and OSCE indicated their willingness to work with Tajik authorities to address these priorities.

Training in Sao Tome and Principe on financial investigations of corruption in support of asset recovery

In cooperation with the Prosecutor-General's Office, from 28 to 30 April 2014, UNODC trained 60 local prosecutors, judges, FIU, police and bank compliance officers on financial investigations of corruption. As part of UNODC customized assistance for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), this workshop served also to discuss and



clarify the consistent application of domestic and international norms pertaining to crimes of corruption.

Albanian government and civil society organizations working together to encourage women whistle-blowers

On 10 April 2014, UNODC hosted a workshop bringing together civil society organizations, women's groups, police and government departments, to identify and discuss ways in which Albanian women can be best supported in coming forward with reports of corruption. Participants were facilitated by UNODC experts in addressing core themes including reporting tools and mechanisms, awareness-raising activities and the protection of reporting persons. In relation to each of these areas participants agreed upon a set of key observations and recommendations, to be finalized and agreed in an upcoming UNODC report. This workshop forms part of a UNODC project currently being taken forward in Albania aimed at encouraging women to come forward with reports of acts of corruption and was designed to provide a voice to women in the current development of a new whistle-blower protection law by the Albanian government. A further follow-up workshop will be held on 25 June 2014 to provide women's groups with an opportunity to comment on the draft whistle-blower protection law presently being drafted by the Albanian government.



UNODC delivers enhanced and customized training for Saudi Interior Ministry personnel



UNODC officers from the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch and the Organized Crime Branch of the Division for Treaty Affairs serviced a training workshop, which was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 30 March to 2 April 2014, under the auspices and organizational responsibility of the KSA Ministry of Interior. The aim of the training was to enhance the effectiveness of domestic mechanisms for mutual legal assistance and increase the national capabilities in dealing effectively with related requests. As a result of the workshop, the participants agreed on several recommendations to enhance the operational capacity of the national Committee on Mutual Legal Assistance, as well as ensure, among others, the efficient and effective implementation of article 18 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and article 46 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

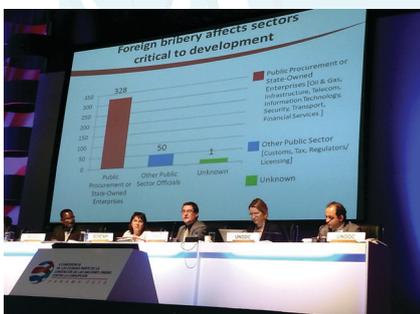
Mission in support of CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy fielded

From 12-14 May 2014, UNODC ROPAN fielded a mission to CARICOM IMPACS in Trinidad and Tobago to conduct joint programming within the framework of the UNODC Regional Programme 2014-2016 in support of the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy (CCSS). Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery are two key pillars highlighted by the CCSS and the importance of prioritizing asset recovery on the political agenda has been greatly emphasized. UNODC and IMPACS will collaborate in the development of further programming to enhance the capacity of CARICOM Member States and Associate Member States in asset confiscation and recovery. This may include the drafting of a regional treaty on asset recovery, supplementing the Caribbean Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on Serious Criminal Matters and supporting adoption of non-conviction based asset forfeiture procedures at the national level. For more information: virginia.deabajo-marques@unodc.org, Regional Anti-corruption Adviser for Central America and the Caribbean.



StAR mandate renewed following favourable results

In November 2013, World Bank and UNODC management extended the mandate of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR) for seven years. This decision reflects the encouraging findings regarding StAR's results. StAR is currently providing general and case-related support to twenty-six countries, and two regional organizations. Thanks to StAR's assistance, member States have made progress in their asset recovery efforts, including the return of assets from France, Italy, Lebanon, Spain and Switzerland to Tunisia. StAR is also very active in the Conference of States Parties to UNCAC, the G20, and other international forums. To bolster international cooperation, StAR continues to bring together asset recovery practitioners, disseminate knowledge and expertise, and facilitate consultations on cases. Asset recovery is high priority at the policy and operational levels. StAR will continue to mobilize its expertise to help secure the timely return of corrupt assets.



UNODC completes global pilot programme for UNCAC Article 11 Implementation Guide

In support of the finalization of a new Implementation Guide and Evaluative Framework for Article 11 of the UNCAC regarding judicial and prosecutorial integrity and the prevention of corruption, UNODC successfully held two regional workshops and one national pilot programme in April and May 2014. At regional workshops in Trinidad & Tobago for Caribbean countries, the Federated States of Micronesia for Pacific countries and a national pilot workshop in Indonesia, high-level judges, prosecutors and judicial administrators used the Guide and Framework to assess the measures currently in place to reduce opportunities for corruption and promote integrity in the judiciary and prosecution services. Suggestions were also gathered from participants regarding final changes to this new knowledge product to ensure it reflects the challenges and priorities of their region. The Implementation Guide and Framework will be finalized and published later this year.

