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Sahel Judicial Platform

**REGIONAL JUDICIAL PLATFORM
OF THE SAHEL COUNTRIES**

OBJECTIVE

The Sahel Judicial Platform was established in 2010 in order to strengthen judicial cooperation in criminal matters among its member States, in line with their bilateral, regional and international obligations, by:

- Facilitating the transmission and execution of mutual legal assistance and extradition requests made by member States
- Keeping track of the cooperation requests processed
- Sharing experiences and best practices
- Identifying technical assistance needs

MEMBERS

Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger (membership remains open to other countries)

OBSERVERS

Chad and Senegal

FUNCTIONING

The Sahel Judicial Platform functions through:

- Focal points: One main focal point and one substitute per member country who are officials in charge of coordinating judicial cooperation requests. The list of contact points is available at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/terrorism/Regional_Platforms/Sahel_Plateforme-Liste_des_points_focaux_2014.pdf
- A Secretariat (administrative role rotating among member States; supported by UNODC)
- A Technical Committee (executive role; composed of the focal points and substitutes)
- A Ministers Council (deliberative role; composed of Ministers of Justice)

MEETINGS OF THE SAHEL JUDICIAL PLATFORM

The first annual meeting of the Sahel Judicial Platform was held in Bamako, Mali, from 22 to 24 June 2010. Annual meetings have since gathered Ministers of Justice and/or focal points in each of the member countries with the aim of:

- Discussing functional matters
- Sharing best practices
- Identifying technical assistance needs

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Several mutual legal assistance requests have effectively been channelled through the Platform, which has been key in facilitating communication between national central authorities in charge of redaction, transmission and execution of international cooperation requests related to criminal matters.
- Tailor-made tools for practitioners have been developed to facilitate the use of international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters.

OTHER EXISTING REGIONAL PLATFORMS FOR JUDICIAL COOPERATION

Other similar judicial networks that could contribute to facilitating interregional cooperation in criminal justice matters include:

- Commonwealth Network of Contact Persons
- European Judicial Network
- Eurojust
- Hemispheric Information Exchange Network for Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition of the Organization of American States
- Ibero-American Legal Assistance Network (IberRed)
- Judicial Regional Platform of the Indian Ocean Commission Countries
- Network of Specialized Prosecutors against Organized Crime (REFCO)
- Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP)



RECOMMENDED TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION RELATED TO TERRORISM CASES

- **Manual on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters related to Terrorism:** Aims to enable legal practitioners specializing in the fight against terrorism to efficiently and swiftly utilize international cooperation measures such as extradition and mutual legal assistance, as well as to give them practical advice concerning the difficulties and obstacles they may encounter. Available at:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/terrorism/Publications/Manual_Int_Coop_Criminal_Matters/English.pdf
http://www.unodc.org/documents/terrorism/Publications/Manual_Int_Coop_Criminal_Matters/French.pdf
- **Practical guide on carrying out effective extradition and mutual legal assistance requests in criminal matters for countries of the Sahel Regional Judicial Platform (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger):** Enables practitioners in the region to get the information they need to make an effective extradition and mutual legal assistance request. The guide provides requesting States with the key requirements set by requested States, such as competent authority, the procedure for submitting the request, legally required information and documents, the accepted legal basis and the language in which the requests must be submitted. Available at:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/terrorism/Publications/Practical_Guide_Sahel/Publication_Fiches_pratiques_Sahel.pdf



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- **Lutte contre le terrorisme dans la région du Sahel: cadre juridique, techniques d'enquête et coopération policière** (available in French only): Training module that contributes to strengthening the investigation and cooperation capacity of judicial police officers in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Available at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/terrorism/Publications/Lutte_contre_le_terrorisme_dans_la_region_du_Sahel_2012/Lutte_contre_le_terrorisme_Sahel.pdf
- **Counter-Terrorism Legislation Database:** Aims to provide comprehensive and accurate legal information on the steps taken by the international community and individual countries in the fight against international terrorism. Stored data are accessible in full text and provide up-to-date information on counter-terrorism conventions, resolutions and national criminal laws worldwide that can assist countries with international cooperation cases. Available at: <http://www.unodc.org/tldb/en/index.html>
- **Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform:** Interactive tool specifically designed to assist criminal justice officers with enhancing their capacities in the fight against terrorism, including judicial cooperation. Available at: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/unodc-counter-terrorism-learning-platform.html>

For further information, please contact:

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