The international crime and drug control treaties provide the legal foundation for action against drug-related offences, transnational organized crime and corruption and reflect the international community’s realization that such issues can be addressed effectively through the collaboration of all states affected or involved.

To facilitate the effective implementation of international drug control treaties and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), has developed a variety of legal tools which provide States and criminal justice practitioners with invaluable practical assistance and information.

Recommended resources

Legislative guides to UNTOC and its protocols

To assist States seeking to ratify and implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto by identifying legislative requirements and the various options available to States as they develop the necessary legislation. www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/legislative-guide.html

Commentaries on the International Drug Control Conventions

A useful guide to States in their interpretation and effective implementation of the international drug control conventions. www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/index.html?ref=menutop

Model treaties and laws


Practical Training Guide for Competent National Authorities under the 1988 Drugs Convention


Tailor-made legal publications for practitioners

Made to provide practitioners with the legal basis for extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. www.unodc.org/unodc/en/legal-tools/Model.html

Expert group reports

Reports produced by experts which identify best practice tips, best international practice and practical guides and for practitioners on mutual legal assistance, asset forfeiture and drug abuse casework. www.unodc.org/unodc/en/legal-tools/Model.html

For further information please contact:
Conference Support Section, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs
Email: Untoc.cop@unodc.org

Legal tools
Mutual legal assistance is one of the most decisive tools States have to fight serious international crime. For mutual legal assistance requests to be effective, they need to be generated quickly and comply with the legal requirements of both requesting and requested parties in order to avoid legal obstacles that can arise when criminal justice practitioners from different legal systems attempt to work together.

The Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool (MLA Tool) has been developed by UNODC to assist States in drafting requests with a view to facilitating and strengthening international cooperation.

- Requires virtually no prior knowledge or experience of drafting mutual legal assistance requests;
- Helps to avoid incomplete requests for mutual legal assistance and therefore minimizes the risk of delay or refusal;
- Is easily adjustable to any country’s substantive and procedural law;
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- Features an integrated case-management tracking system for incoming and outgoing requests.

Step by step, the MLA Tool guides the casework practitioner through the request process for each type of mutual assistance, using a series of templates. Before progressing from one screen to the next, the drafter is prompted if essential information has been omitted. The tool consolidates all data entered and automatically generates a correct, complete and effective request for final editing and signature.

The MLA Tool is currently available in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Portuguese, Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin and Serbian.

To request a user account and for further information, please visit our website: www.unodc.org/mla/index.html

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To access the library and for further information please visit our website: www.unodc.org/enl

The UNODC on-line legal library provides valuable access to legislation adopted by States and territories worldwide to put into effect the International Drug Control Conventions and the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols thereto.

A unique resource of information for legislative drafters, the legal library contains laws and regulations in English, French and Spanish from over 150 States dating back to 1948.

To keep the library up to date, States are kindly requested to review the legislation online and to submit new legislations to:

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
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Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch
Division For Treaty Affairs
Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500
1400 Vienna
Austria
Email: legal@unodc.org
Fax: 0043+1 26060-74344

Competent National Authorities (CNAs) Directory


It contains the contact information of over 600 CNAs authorized to receive, respond to and process requests for:
- Extradition
- Transfer of sentenced persons
- Mutual legal assistance in criminal matters
- Illegal traffic of narcotics by sea
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With the view to facilitate communication and problem solving among competent national authorities at the interregional level, the Directory contains essential information on:
- National legal and procedural requirements for making requests
- Use of the international conventions as the legal basis for requests
- Links to national laws and websites
- Indication of requests that can be made through Interpol

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**Practical Training Guide for Competent National Authorities under the 1988 Drugs Convention**

A user-friendly reference training guide to assist States in making requests and competent national authorities who have the responsibility to receive and respond to requests under article 17 of the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Includes a series of annexes providing guidance on practical implementation, legal background and reference material. [www.unodc.org/straffp/](http://www.unodc.org/straffp/)

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