



**Judicial Cooperation Networks: Launch of the South East Asia Justice Network (SEAJust)
promotion of international cooperation in criminal matters
and the connections between judicial cooperation networks**

Date: 09 March 2021 **Time:** 11.30 - 13.00 (Japan time zone)

A. Context

Enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation in criminal matters for the investigation and prosecution of crime in all its transnational dimensions directly contributes to promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels and to combatting all forms of organized crime under sustainable development goal (SDG) 16 of the 2030 Agenda and may contribute to other SDG.

Globally, there exist several judicial cooperation networks supported by different entities, such as the European Union, the Council of Europe, and the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors. UNODC, through its Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime (GP-TOC) has been supporting several such networks, including the Judicial Cooperation Network for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus (CASC), the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP) and the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network (GLJCN). Through these informal networks of contact points, central/competent authorities can obtain advice, contacts, and information to aid in overcoming challenges to sending requests for mutual legal assistance (MLA) or other forms of international cooperation in criminal matters. UNODC, acting as the Secretariat of these networks, also coordinates with the Secretariat of other networks to facilitate contacts.

In 2020, the South East Asia Justice Network (SEAJust) was established with funding from Japan and the support of the GP-TOC and the ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) Secretariat. A benefit of the network is the opportunities it offers to establish and strengthen contacts with central authorities of different regions, including through other regional judicial cooperation networks and already twenty-nine (29) mutual legal assistance cases have been facilitated. The network presently has ten (10) members and because the ToR provides that any central authority may seek membership, it has the potential to grow and benefit counterparts outside the region.

B. Objective of the high-level event

The main aims of the special event are: i) to raise awareness about the operational work of judicial cooperation networks and the benefits and results members have realized from participating in such networks; ii) to discuss how to strengthen existing networks and the connections between networks and; iii) to launch the South East Asia Justice Network (SEAJust).

C. Proposed format

The session will involve introductory presentations or speeches by the speakers (some presentations will be pre-recorded), a video and a panel discussion.

Interventions from the floor are encouraged through questions and comments directly linked to the subject issue of the High-Level Event.

<i>Total session time:</i>	<i>90 minutes</i>
Welcome and introduction by the moderator:	5 minutes
Video about the SEAJust Network and the benefits of judicial cooperation networks:	10 minutes
Keynote speech by speakers (2-5 minutes per speaker):	50 minutes
Panel discussion:	15 minutes
Questions from participants:	5 minutes
Closing of side-event by the moderator:	2 minutes
Overflow time	3 minutes

D. Speakers

Moderators:

Ms. Karen Kramer, Senior Drug Control and Crime Prevention Expert, UNODC

Mr. Jumpon Phansumrit, Director General, International Affairs Department,
Office of the Attorney General, Thailand (tbc)

A video about SEAJust and to promote judicial cooperation networks will be played.

Speakers:

Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director, UNODC (tbc)

Ms. Dolores Delgado García, Prosecutor General of Spain, representing the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors

Mr. Enrique Gil Botero, Secretary General of the Ibero-American Conference of Ministers of Justice and Secretary General of the Ibero-American Network of International Legal Cooperation (IberRed)

Mr. Hamada El Sawy, Prosecutor General of Egypt, representing the African Prosecutor's Association
Senior prosecutor, West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP)

Senior prosecutor, Judicial Cooperation Network for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus (CASC)

Senior official, European Judicial Network (EJN)

Short statement may come from the following:

Senior representatives from the SEAJust member countries and ASEAN MLAT Secretariat