

Research Center on International Cooperation Regarding Persons Sought for Corruption and Asset Recovery in G20 Member States

Introduction

International cooperation in anti-corruption, including cooperation on persons sought for corruption and related asset recovery remains high on the G20 agenda against corruption. G20 Leaders' communiqués and Anti-Corruption Action Plans have re-affirmed the G20 commitment to international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance and extradition, asset recovery, and denial of safe haven to corrupt officials and those who corrupt them. Considerable efforts have been made in this regard, such as the endorsement of the G20 High-Level Principles on Mutual Legal Assistance, the development of Country Guides for Asset Recovery, and the establishment of the G20 Denial of Entry Experts' Network.

We recognize that the G20 can lead by example in continuing efforts to improve anti-corruption cooperation. Increasing our knowledge base can contribute to enhanced international anti-corruption cooperation, including with respect to persons sought for corruption and related asset recovery. Research could be an approach that would help to address some of our shared challenges. Such could build upon our knowledge, where it does not exist elsewhere, on current international and national legal frameworks, work procedures and institutions, and could help share good practices and examples of successful cooperation.

China Initiative

One of China's top academic institutions, the Beijing Normal University has experts and academicson persons sought for corruption and asset recovery. Willing to provide support, from the academic perspective, to the 2016 G20 China presidency in anti-corruption arena, the University is proposing to develop a research center on international cooperation regarding persons sought for corruption and asset recovery to complement G20 efforts to address the issue, and seeks the expertise support of the G20 ACWG members and other countries as necessary.

The Research Centre would not be an international organization or multilateral mechanism. There would not be a secretariat or a board of directors. It would not have any official linkage to the G20. However, G20 members, interested countries and International Organizations (IOs) are

encouraged to propose experts, practitioners or any relevant personnel, on a voluntary basis, to assist the Research Centre in the research on specific topics. The Research Center will complement and not duplicate existing training and research projects at the international level.

Name

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Objectives

The research will focus on G20 members' cooperation and legal systems to address persons sought for corruption and asset recovery. Potential outcomes may include,

- (1) Compiling G20 country profiles on national laws and regulations that apply to international cooperation in corruption cases.
- (2) Compiling and sharing research findings, in accordance with relevant data protection rules, good practices, case studies and knowledge product in order to help enhance capacity in combating corruption.

Participation and Organization of Research

(1) The G20 members, interested countries and IOs may propose, with the consent of those proposed, personnel from academia with expertise in anti-corruption and criminal law, or practitioners engaged in law enforcement, asset recovery, international cooperation or anti-corruption work, or other professionals such as lawyers. Based on the proposals, and with the expert's agreement, the Centre will maintain an experts' database and make the database available to G20 members.

(2) The Center would decide on specific research topics itself or based on the requesting countries, and select appropriate experts from the database to conduct the research. The Centre may seek recommendations of governmental experts knowledgeable about specific areas of proposed research, and seek expert input and participation from the private sector, academia and civil society.

(3) Any country could ask the Center to conduct research on certain topics, and any project undertaken would be consistent with the relevant country's domestic law regarding sharing law enforcement information and data protection, etc.

(4) The Centre's activities could include research conducted by the Centre itself or jointly with governmental, private sector, academic and civil

society based experts, as well as training programs, seminars or workshops, or any other activities as agreed by the requesting country, the Centre and experts knowledgeable in the topic. .

(5) Potential research topics will be determined by the Centre in consultation with requesting countries and relevant experts. This may include: international legal cooperation (extradition and mutual legal assistance), legislation and practice on asset recovery, development and enforcement of domestic corruption and foreign bribery legislation, including the relevant provisions of UN Convention against Corruption and the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, case studies and good practices.

Administration

The Research Centre will be hosted and administered by the College for Criminal Law Science, Beijing Normal University. The University will provide facilities and funds to cover the expenses of the administration and daily operation of the Research Center, including accommodation and other necessary expenses of the experts participating in research activities.