



Tool 4.8 Article 27 of the Organized Crime Convention, on law enforcement cooperation

Overview

This tool introduces the reader to article 27 of the Organized Crime Convention, which requires States parties to develop close law enforcement cooperation.

Article 27, paragraph 1, of the Organized Crime Convention establishes the scope of the obligation to cooperate. Subject to their respective domestic legal and administrative systems, States parties are to cooperate closely in terms of law enforcement (police-to-police cooperation) in areas prescribed in subparagraphs (a) to (f) by:

- Strengthening the channels of communication among their respective law enforcement authorities (1 (a))
- Undertaking specific forms of cooperation in order to obtain information about persons and about movements of the proceeds and instrumentalities of crime (1 (b))
- Providing one another with items or substances for investigative purposes (1 (c))
- Promoting exchanges of personnel, including the posting of liaison officers (1 (d))
- Exchanging information on a variety of means and methods used by organized crime groups (1 (e))
- Conducting other cooperation for the purpose of facilitating early identification of offences (1 (f))

Article 27, paragraph 2, further calls upon States parties to consider entering into bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements on direct cooperation between their law enforcement agencies. Most countries permit such cooperation under their domestic law (or by virtue of membership of INTERPOL). However, for States with no such agreement or arrangement in place, the second sentence of the paragraph provides legal authority for such cooperation:

In the absence of such agreements or arrangements between the States Parties concerned, the Parties may consider this Convention as the basis for mutual law enforcement cooperation in respect of the offences covered by this Convention.

Lastly, article 27, paragraph 3, calls upon States to endeavour to conduct law enforcement cooperation in order to respond to transnational organized crime committed through the use of modern technology.



For more information, see the UNODC legislative guides at:
www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/legislative-guide.html