

UNODC hosted a workshop on Asset Confiscation for Magistrates in Angola



Luanda, 15- 17 June 2022: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSAF) through its Project Office in Angola in partnership with the Attorney General’s office and the National Institute for Judiciary Studies (INEJ) held a 3-day workshop on asset confiscation for 35 Magistrates through the project **PRO.REACT - Support the Strengthening of a National Asset Forfeiture System in Angola**, funded by European Union (EU).

The project PRO.REACT has a mandate of 3 years and has been implemented through the UNODC Global Programme Against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime, and Financing of Terrorism (GPML). Its aim is to develop an effective system to counter illicit financial flows and contribute to higher economic growth and poverty reduction in Angola by increasing the revenue and resources available to Angola to fund its own development. This project is reinforcing anti-money laundering and asset forfeiture capacities of the country, which in turn can be used to combat economic-related crime, such as corruption.

The workshop focused on enhancing the capacity of judges and prosecutors on asset confiscation in order to enable stronger and consistent confiscation orders based on upon evidence presented to them.

The President of Supreme Court, HE Joel Leonardo, stated at the opening ceremony the importance of the workshop and highlighted that the Angolan Judiciary is committed to learn in order to pursue the mission of protecting society from crime, by making a real impact in peoples' life.



Manuela Carneiro, UNODC ROSAF AML/CFT Adviser

Manuela Carneiro, UNODC ROSAF AML/CFT Adviser, underlined that money laundering and illicit financial flows are a major concern to Angola and asset confiscation is an important tool to prevent and combat crime profit-driven, by ensuring that criminals would not profit of illicit activities. Magistrates play a crucial role in organization and administration of justice, as they are charged with decisions over life, freedoms, rights or duties, and training is an essential component of any efficient legal system.

This was one of the activities among a series of training courses supporting the development of national capacities and more effective system against illicit financial flows and for asset confiscation. UNODC will continue to support Angola in its efforts and strategy against money laundering and organized crime.

The initiative falls under the Anti-Corruption scope, a priority area in the EU's Development Cooperation Policy and feeds into the UNODC Strategy for 2021-2025. More specifically under Thematic Area 1 on Preventing and Countering Organized Crime and Thematic Area 2 on Preventing and Countering Corruption and Economic Crime. In addition, it is organized under the UNODC's Strategic Vision for Africa 2030: Investment Area 2: Securing the safety of people from organized crime, terrorism, and violence as well as Investment Area 4: Safeguarding people and institutions from corruption and economic crime.