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## International cooperation

### **Activities of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote international cooperation**

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### *Summary*

The present note contains an overview of the activities of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation, a subsidiary body of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote international cooperation during the period 2022–2023. It is aimed at assisting the Conference in its deliberations and in providing guidance on future work of the expert meeting.

\* [CAC/COSP/2023/1](#).



## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 4/2, entitled “Convening of open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation”, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption decided to convene open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings on international cooperation to advise and assist it in the implementation of its mandate on international cooperation with respect to extradition and mutual legal assistance, and to convene one such meeting during its fifth session and, prior to that, within existing resources, at least one intersessional meeting.
2. In the same resolution, the Conference tasked the expert meeting with, inter alia, assisting the Conference in developing cumulative knowledge in the area of international cooperation; facilitating the exchange of experiences among States, including by disseminating information on good practices; and building confidence and encouraging cooperation between requesting and requested States.
3. In its resolutions 5/1, 7/1, 8/1, 8/2, 8/6, 9/1, 9/3 and 9/5, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption convened and directed the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption to advise and assist it with respect to the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention.
4. At its fifth to ninth sessions, the Conference decided to continue the work of the expert meeting.
5. During 2022 and 2023, open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings were organized in accordance with the guidance contained in the workplan for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference, which was approved by the Bureau of the Conference in June 2022 in order to enable the consideration of the substantive items of its agenda jointly with the other subsidiary bodies. Moreover, the topics considered by the expert meetings held in 2023 under its agenda item 4, entitled “Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, were approved by the Bureau by means of a silence procedure on 3 April 2023.
6. The present note has been prepared to inform the Conference at its tenth session about the status of the implementation of the mandates of the expert meeting. It is aimed at assisting the Conference in its deliberations and in determining guidance and future activities for the expert meeting.

## **II. Activities of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation**

7. Since the ninth session of the Conference, the expert meeting has continued to discharge its functions as mandated by the Conference and to implement the mandates contained in the relevant resolutions adopted by the Conference.
8. To date, 12 expert meetings have been held. Since the ninth session of the Conference, the eleventh expert meeting was held from 7 to 11 November 2022 (hybrid) and the twelfth expert meeting was held from 5 to 8 September 2023 (hybrid).
9. The eleventh and twelfth expert meetings were held jointly with the Implementation Review Group and the Working Group on Asset Recovery. The joint meetings were held in line with Conference resolution 6/1, in which the secretariat was requested to structure the provisional agendas of the expert meeting to enhance international cooperation and the other subsidiary bodies established by the Conference in such a way as to avoid the duplication of discussions while respecting their mandates, as well as in accordance with the guidance contained in the workplan for the subsidiary bodies.

10. Furthermore, the secretariat has been working on the further promotion of synergies between the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption and the Working Group on International Cooperation established by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime through presentations delivered by secretariat staff of both sections reciprocally and sharing experiences on issues of mutual interest.

11. Information on the proceedings of the expert meeting during the reporting period is contained in the reports on its meetings held in 2022 and 2023. Information on surveys administered by the secretariat in 2022 and 2023 to assess delegations' satisfaction with the support it provided in relation to the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference can be found in document [CAC/COSP/2023/2](#). The topics discussed during the expert meetings under the substantive agenda items are outlined below.

#### **A. Implementation of chapter IV of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: lessons learned, good practices and challenges**

12. In the Conference's resolution 7/1 and in the recommendations of the eighth expert meeting ([CAC/COSP/EG.1/2019/4](#)), held in Vienna on 31 May 2019, States parties were encouraged to continue to provide to the Secretariat information on challenges and good practices in international cooperation and other topics outlined in the Conference's resolutions and the recommendations of the expert meetings, with a view to the Secretariat continuing its analytical work with regard to challenges in international cooperation based on the Convention and relevant to the implementation of chapter IV.

13. During the period under review, the expert meeting considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled "Implementation of chapter IV of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: lessons learned, good practices and challenges".

14. The secretariat submitted notes on the progress in implementing the mandates of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption for the consideration of the expert meetings in 2022 ([CAC/COSP/EG.1/2022/2](#)) and 2023 ([CAC/COSP/EG.1/2023/2](#)). In addition, at the expert meetings, the secretariat provided oral updates on the progress made in the implementation of chapter IV (International cooperation). More details on progress achieved are available in the above-mentioned corresponding notes by the secretariat.

15. At the meetings held during the reporting period, speakers shared their countries' experiences, challenges and good practices on the implementation of the provisions on international cooperation of the Convention and provided information on measures taken after the completion of the reviews, including in implementing the recommendations resulting from them. Several speakers emphasized that the expert meeting on international cooperation allowed an exchange of information on national measures taken during or after the completion of reviews.

16. The eleventh and twelfth expert meetings focused on two main themes: promoting the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention and gathering information on best practices and challenges concerning international cooperation in combating corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery.

##### **1. Thematic discussion on promoting the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention**

17. In its resolution 9/3, entitled "Follow-up to the Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption, and the use of information

and communications technologies”, the Conference requested the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention and other relevant subsidiary bodies to include, as a topic for discussion at their future meetings, how to promote the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention. In the same resolution, the Conference requested the secretariat to continue collecting, analysing and disseminating information on good practices in the development, access and use of information and communications technologies in preventing and combating corruption, taking into account existing technical expertise in the United Nations system, and also requested the secretariat to report on such efforts to the relevant subsidiary bodies.

18. In its resolution 9/5, entitled “Enhancing international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation”, the Conference invited the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to consult with, among others, Member States, including their anti-corruption authorities with relevant expertise, as appropriate, to inform its proposed development of the online one-stop hub of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) to provide a forum for cooperation, which might include a secure platform for confidential communication among Network members, and to keep States parties apprised of its progress in that regard.

19. Based on these mandates, on 1 June 2023 the secretariat sent a note verbale to all States parties with a view to collecting information on promoting the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention, including challenges and good practices and legal requirements for international cooperation. The questionnaire also collected information in relation to the proposed development of the online one-stop hub of the GlobE Network.

20. The secretariat analysed the 39 responses submitted by States parties. The main observations stemming from the analysis of the information received from States parties were made available through a conference room paper on promoting the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CAC/COSP/EG.1/2023/CRP.1). In order to facilitate the deliberations, in line with paragraph 8 of resolution 9/3, a thematic panel discussion was held during the twelfth expert meeting.

## **2. Thematic discussion on gathering information on best practices and challenges concerning international cooperation in combating corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery**

21. In its resolution 9/1, entitled “Sharm el-Sheikh declaration on strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery,” the Conference directed the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation to collect and analyse, with the support of the secretariat, information provided by States parties on a voluntary basis on best practices and challenges concerning international cooperation in combating corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, with a view to developing non-binding guidelines for strengthening international and multilateral cooperation to further prevent, identify, investigate and prosecute corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery.

22. In the same resolution, the Conference further decided that the eleventh expert meeting should have, as a topic on its agenda, “Strengthening international and multilateral cooperation to further prevent, identify, investigate and prosecute corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery”.

23. Pursuant to the above-mentioned mandates, the secretariat prepared a conference room paper on best practices and challenges concerning international cooperation in combating corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery (CAC/COSP/EG.1/2022/CRP.1), which analysed information provided

by 23 States parties and was submitted to the eleventh open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention, held in Vienna from 7 to 11 November 2022. A panel discussion held under this agenda item further complemented the analysis outlined in the paper.

24. Building on these discussions, UNODC, together with the Administrative Control Authority of Egypt, held a meeting of experts on 12 and 13 December 2022 in Cairo. Over 50 participants from 26 countries nominated by their regional groups attended the meeting, as well as eight intergovernmental organizations, two non-governmental organizations and representatives of academia. The meeting identified the types of corruption risks and constraints in different emergencies, key lessons learned and good practices, and provided the necessary inputs for further consultations leading to the development of the non-binding guidelines.

25. Following the expert meeting, the secretariat prepared a zero draft of the non-binding guidelines and held follow-up consultations, in partnership with Egypt, on 22 May 2023, to collect further inputs and written comments. The guidelines also derived from an extensive analysis and synthesis of relevant guidance, policy papers and materials, including those issued by the Group of 20, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Global Task Force on Corruption and UNODC.

26. The non-binding guidelines for strengthening international and multilateral cooperation to further prevent, identify, investigate and prosecute corruption during times of emergency and crisis response and recovery ([CAC/COSP/EG.1/2023/3](#)) were presented during the twelfth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention, held in Vienna from 4 to 8 September 2023, complemented by a panel discussion in which experts highlighted the utility of the guidelines and their wide-ranging applicability during all types of emergencies. The overall aim of the non-binding guidelines is to support the efforts of States parties to address the most prevalent corruption risks encountered at different stages of an emergency or crisis response, including at the national, international and multilateral levels. The guidelines consist of 13 high-level, non-prescriptive principles that allow States to determine the specific implementation modalities and provide a platform to further exchange capacity and expertise.

27. More details on progress achieved is available in the report of the Secretariat on progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Conference resolution 9/1, entitled “Sharm el-Sheikh declaration on strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery” ([CAC/COSP/2023/19](#)).

### 3. Technical assistance

28. During the period under review, the twelfth expert meeting considered the item on technical assistance, including information on technical assistance and capacity-building with an impact on the implementation of the international cooperation provisions of the Convention (chapter IV).

29. To facilitate the expert meeting’s deliberations on this item, panel discussions on technical assistance were organized during joint meetings on technical assistance held by the expert meeting with other subsidiary bodies of the Conference, in relation to chapter II (Preventive measures), chapter IV (International cooperation) and chapter V (Asset recovery) of the Convention, as well as on general matters related to technical assistance. At the eleventh expert meeting, two panels were held in relation to chapters IV and V of the Convention, respectively. At the twelfth expert meeting, panel discussions were held on specific aspects of technical assistance in relation to chapters IV and V of the Convention and on building the capacity of financial intelligence units through technical assistance.

## **B. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption**

30. In accordance with the workplan for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference to follow up on the achievement of the political declaration, during the twelfth expert meeting, a panel discussion was held on the role of financial intelligence units in the recovery of assets, in particular with a view to technical assistance delivery. In addition, a second panel discussion was held on the role of intermediaries in the prevention of the transfer of proceeds of crime. Further information on the discussions regarding the measures implemented in follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation can be found in the report of the Secretariat on the activities of UNODC to support the implementation of the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, adopted by the special session of the General Assembly against corruption ([CAC/COSP/2023/20](#)).

## **III. Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote international cooperation**

31. To date, the activities of UNODC to promote international cooperation have focused on three main themes, in line with the mandates of the meetings as contained in Conference resolution 4/2: (a) developing cumulative knowledge; (b) building confidence and trust between requesting and requested States; and (c) technical assistance, training and capacity-building.

32. The importance of building trust between requesting and requested States for international cooperation has been stressed as a means of increasing successful extradition and mutual legal assistance requests as well as paving the way for successful international cooperation.

33. The types of technical assistance relevant to international cooperation have included gap analyses, assistance in drafting new legislation and the facilitation of the mutual legal assistance process, in recognition of the urgent and constant need for capacity-building and training.

### **A. Developing cumulative knowledge**

34. With respect to the development of cumulative knowledge on international cooperation, the expert meeting has expressed its continued interest in the development of knowledge and related tools that would facilitate legislative reforms in this area.

35. UNODC continued to develop and disseminate guides, handbooks and other tools. Thus far, more than 45 publications have been made available online, regularly reprinted and distributed. Since the previous expert meeting, the joint UNODC-World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative has launched a publication focused on the importance of interagency and international cooperation regarding fighting corruption, money laundering and tax crimes. UNODC has also published tailored knowledge products relevant to international cooperation. A detailed description of those knowledge products, including through the StAR Initiative, is contained in the note by the Secretariat on the activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery and the work of UNODC to promote asset recovery ([CAC/COSP/2023/14](#)).

36. The Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK)<sup>1</sup> portal, created in 2010 as a knowledge management portal focused on the implementation of the Convention, was expanded in 2022 and is conceptualized as a repository for all contributions submitted on a voluntary basis by States parties on the implementation of the Convention and the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, such as on good practices and progress made in the use of international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention.<sup>2</sup>

37. A key element of the TRACK portal is its legal library, which brings together legislation from over 180 jurisdictions worldwide. More than 600 entries on international cooperation coupled with the geographical scope provide access to legislative provisions in different jurisdictions to identify good practices and challenges and to develop model legislation on the implementation of the Convention. The teams of the TRACK portal and the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal continued working together to make the legislation collected through the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption accessible in the SHERLOC legislation database under the crime type “Corruption”. This allowed the sharing of UNODC expertise with a wider audience and fostered greater inclusiveness.

38. With a similar intention of reaching the widest possible audience, the university module series on anti-corruption and on integrity and ethics, which were initially developed under the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative were updated in 2022 and can be found on the portal of the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative. The teaching modules aim to support tertiary-level educators and academics in their efforts to transmit knowledge and create a deeper understanding of rule of law-related issues.

39. The GlobE Network developed several knowledge products, which are focused on international cooperation for the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases as well as asset recovery. In November 2022, the GlobE Network updated its first knowledge tool: the Networks Membership Mapping Chart, which provides information on the membership of all States parties to the Convention in 23 relevant global and regional networks, as well as the contact details for their secretariats. The Mapping Chart is available on the GlobE Network’s website (<https://globenetwork.unodc.org>).

40. A *Compendium of Practices on Informal Cooperation in Transnational Corruption Cases* was developed by the GlobE Network in 2023, summarizing the contributions of 57 authorities from 42 Members States and parties to the Convention against Corruption. It provides an overview and uses case examples to illustrate the scope, purpose, challenges and solutions for informal cooperation between operational anti-corruption authorities. The *Compendium* is available on the GlobE Network website.<sup>3</sup>

41. During the reporting period, UNODC released several publications highlighting the importance of international cooperation in addressing corruption in sports. These include the *Global Report on Corruption in Sport*, which features adjudicated cases illustrating the complexity of corruption in sports and was made available in multiple languages, including Russian, Spanish, Khmer, Malay, Thai and Vietnamese. In addition, UNODC collaborated with the International Olympic Committee on publications such as *Legal Approaches to Tackling the Manipulation of Sports Competitions: A Resource Guide* and *Tackling Bribery in Sport: An Overview of Relevant Laws and Standards*, which emphasize effective cooperation between law enforcement agencies, criminal justice authorities and sports organizations. Furthermore, UNODC published an advocacy paper titled “Crime, corruption and wrongdoing in the transfer of football players and other athletes” in November 2022,

<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://track.unodc.org/>.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://track.unodc.org/track/en/follow-up-process-to-ungass-2021/contributions.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Available at <https://globenetwork.unodc.org>.

examining issues of crime and corruption in athlete transfers, both domestically and internationally, to support efforts by Governments, sports organizations and stakeholders in combating such wrongdoing.

42. During 2022, with the cooperation of Governments in the region, UNODC developed five mutual legal assistance guides and six asset recovery guides in Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, as well as Kosovo.<sup>4</sup> The purpose of those documents was to enhance the capacity for international cooperation in those jurisdictions.

## B. Building confidence and trust between requesting and requested States

### 1. Central authorities

43. In its resolution 7/1, the Conference urged States parties to ensure that the information provided regarding their central and competent authorities, in line with article 46, paragraph 13, of the Convention, was up to date, in order to enhance dialogue on mutual legal assistance.

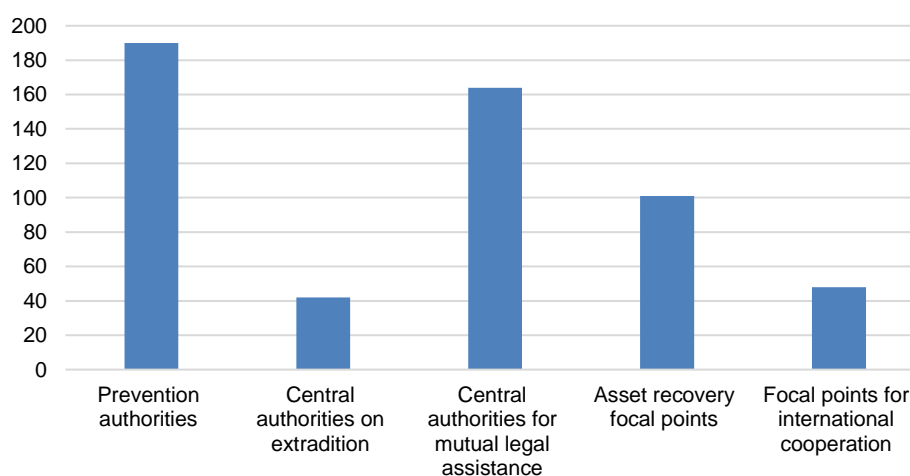
44. In line with the recommendation of the expert meeting, the secretariat continued to update the online directory of competent national authorities.<sup>5</sup>

45. As at 9 October 2023, the directory contained information on the following (figure I):

- (a) 190 prevention authorities from 122 States parties;
- (b) 42 central authorities on extradition from 38 States parties;
- (c) 164 central authorities for mutual legal assistance from 133 States parties;
- (d) 101 asset recovery focal points from 88 States parties;
- (e) 48 focal points for international cooperation in the use of civil and administrative proceedings from 38 States parties (see figure I).

Figure I

#### Number of designated competent national authorities, by type



46. In order for the States parties to benefit from a single outlet of information on competent authorities under all treaties relevant to UNODC, the online directory of competent national authorities under the Convention was merged with the directory of competent national authorities in the SHERLOC portal in July 2019. The number

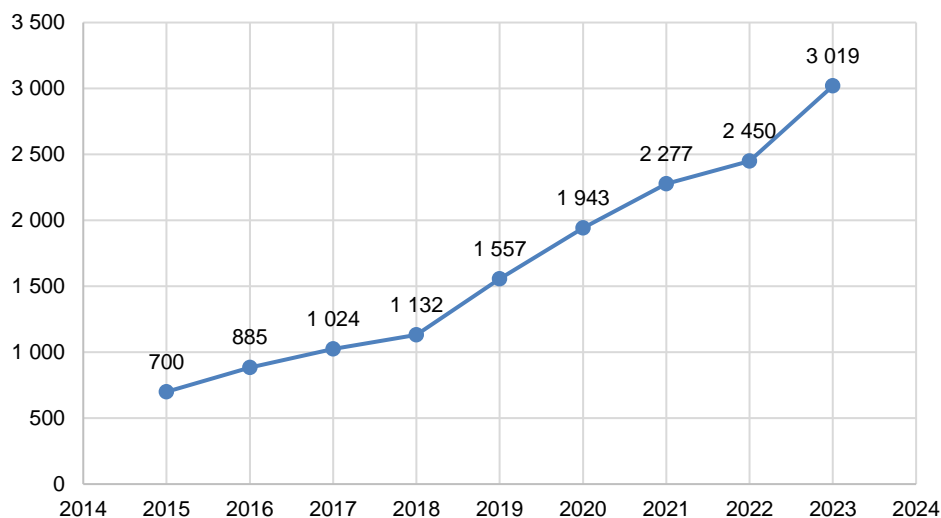
<sup>4</sup> All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

<sup>5</sup> Available at <https://sherloc.unodc.org/cld/v3/sherloc/cna/index.jspx>.



of users with access to the online directory of competent national authorities has been steadily growing since 2015 (figure II).

Figure II  
**Number of users with access to the online directory of competent national authorities**



## 2. Development of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities

47. The Globe Network, launched in June 2021 on the margins of the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, has grown rapidly into a global network supporting cross-border connections for international cooperation among operational anti-corruption law enforcement authorities with 168 members from 96 States and parties to the Convention against Corruption as at 30 September 2023.

48. The Globe Network enables practitioners to connect directly, informally and securely to share information to detect, investigate and prosecute corruption cases. Tools and services include a secure communication platform and case facilitation support. Through direct informal cooperation, Globe promotes peer-to-peer learning and efficient asset recovery by complementing formal mutual legal assistance. The Globe Network enables law enforcement practitioners to collectively strengthen their capacity to address corruption through more efficient criminal, civil and administrative proceedings.

49. In June 2022, the Globe Network launched the Globe Secure Communications Platform, a highly secure solution offered to Globe Network members free of charge to enable the exchange of information, including case-specific intelligence. As at 30 September 2023, the Platform had 148 users representing 82 Globe Network member authorities from 54 States. Guidelines for the exchange of information, which outline the types of information that can be shared through the Platform, and a template to request information between Globe Network members were adopted.

50. Three plenary meetings of the Globe Network took place in 2022 and 2023 with a growing number of participants and representatives of international organizations. The past two years marked a shift in the focus of the plenary meetings, from establishing the governance structure of the Globe Network to substantive discussions on informal cooperation, exchange of information and use of technology and innovation to fight corruption, and operational meetings to facilitate the progress of cases. Globe Network practitioners engaged in 121 bilateral and two multilateral meetings at the second, third and fourth Globe Network plenary meetings. Some of these meetings were facilitated by the Globe Network in partnership with the StAR Initiative.

51. Two additional special events were held in the margins of the fourth GlobE Network plenary meeting in July 2023 for the in-person participants; a training session on the use of technology tools in corruption investigations, provided by the Independent Commission against Corruption, in Hong Kong, China; and a brainstorming session on the GlobE Network initiative for women's empowerment. In the margins of the Global Conference on Harnessing Data to Improve Corruption Measurement, organized by UNODC, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Anti-Corruption Academy and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and held in Vienna on 31 August and 1 September 2023, the GlobE Network carried out a side event on corruption measurement and the role of law enforcement, which was presented in a hybrid format.

52. The GlobE Network regional component for the Western Balkans was officially launched on 5 September 2023. It comprises relevant anti-corruption bodies from the region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) that are already members of the GlobE Network and is aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in the fight against corruption; facilitating informal cooperation; and providing a forum to exchange good practices and identify common problems and solutions to those problems.

53. The GlobE Network actively partners with other international organizations and networks with related mandates with a view to ensure complementarity of effort and avoid duplication. Eleven organizations and networks are granted observer status to the GlobE Network. The GlobE Network is granted observer status to the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network and to the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

54. Since September 2021, the GlobE Network has been issuing a quarterly newsletter to keep members up to date on its work and international cooperation against corruption.

### **C. Technical assistance, training and capacity-building**

55. UNODC has continued to provide technical assistance in order to strengthen the capacity of States parties in implementing chapter IV of the Convention and facilitate their full participation in the Implementation Review Mechanism, in response to calls for technical assistance by States parties.

56. UNODC – including through its regional anti-corruption hubs and the StAR Initiative, and together with the World Bank, the GlobE Network and the Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Economic Crime – continued to provide tailored capacity-building and advisory services at the global, regional and national levels and to participate in and contribute to meetings, conferences and task forces aimed at coordinating international cooperation among States parties.

57. Building on and evolving from its network of field-based advisers, UNODC has established regional anti-corruption hubs as an integral part of its enhanced delivery model and revised Global Programme (2023–2027). The hubs strengthen UNODC infrastructure and global reach to facilitate greater support for anti-corruption reforms based on enhanced partnerships and coordinated assistance with other providers, regional bodies and intergovernmental associations. Regional hubs comprise teams of anti-corruption staff with diverse and complementary expertise that is consistent with the anti-corruption priorities identified by countries in the regions that they serve. A strengthened field-based capacity enables UNODC, as part of the United Nations system, to work closer to the point of delivery and to support Member States' efforts to strengthen national and local institutions and integrate anti-corruption measures in key sectors and national plans and strategies. The first regional hub launched in Mexico in 2021 to cover Central America, the Caribbean and South America, followed by a second regional hub in Kenya (Nairobi) to cover Africa in 2023. An additional regional hub is being established in Thailand (Bangkok) to cover South

Asia, South-east Asia and the Pacific, and a subregional hub is being established in Colombia (Bogotá) to cover South America.

58. In this regard, the Mexico hub supported the Working Group Specialized in the Fight against Transnational Corruption of the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions in developing a guide for the exchange of information between supreme audit institutions that was launched on 9 February 2022. In addition, UNODC has organized two regional training workshops in Argentina on the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases, which facilitated international cooperation among the authorities from Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Paraguay.

59. UNODC also continued to organize workshops at the regional and subregional levels and to assist States parties in establishing more effective, direct law enforcement cooperation at the regional and interregional levels.

60. The Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific launched in May 2023 a new tool for international cooperation in criminal matters, the UNODC Electronic Evidence Fiches. The fiches, inspired by the European Judicial Network, summarize national procedures and requirements to preserve and obtain electronic evidence held by foreign service providers quickly, legally and in an admissible format for trial, including through mutual legal assistance and informal international cooperation in criminal matters. The aim of the Electronic Evidence Fiches is to provide practical information to support criminal justice practitioners in engaging in cross-border cooperation on electronic evidence. The South-East Asia Justice Network (SEAJust) has been operational since April 2020 and facilitates mutual legal assistance among the central authorities for mutual legal assistance in the region in order to promote cooperation on transnational organized crime and corruption. As of September 2023, SEAJust contact points reported at least 50 cases of mutual legal assistance that have been facilitated through the network. UNODC also launched a regional study on regulatory frameworks and challenges in conducting financial investigations in South-East Asian countries.

61. In West Africa, UNODC supported a follow-up session of the fifth annual General Assembly of the Network of National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, held in Abuja in March 2022.

62. Moreover, the regional platform to fast-track the implementation of the Convention in West Africa and the Sahel (covering Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal) was launched in November 2022. The strengthening of regional and international cooperation is among the actions set in the road map of the platform.

63. International cooperation is also a priority area of the regional platform for Central America, which covers Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama and was launched in April 2023. The road map of the platform includes among its objectives the promotion of international judicial cooperation to obtain effective results in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases.

64. Under the regional road map on anti-corruption and illicit finance flows to fast-track the implementation of the Convention and the regional platform for the Western Balkans created in 2021, UNODC continued facilitating international cooperation both in the areas of corruption prevention and law enforcement, enhancing criminal justice responses to corruption and economic crime through the creation of a regional network of specialized prosecutors, law enforcement and financial intelligence units in the Western Balkans jurisdictions. In 2022, UNODC organized 11 regional meetings aimed at strengthening and facilitating international cooperation in the areas of asset recovery, anti-corruption investigations, international cooperation in public procurement and asset disclosure.

65. UNODC also conducted several activities to identify target countries and institutions and contribute to the elaboration of the baseline for the Caribbean

platform. The regional platform to fast-track the implementation of the Convention in the Caribbean was launched in October 2023 in Port of Spain. The regional platform approach for the Caribbean is catalytic in nature, seeking to identify gaps in existing efforts to implement the Convention in States parties and to coordinate and leverage the work of technical assistance providers.

66. In addition to its regional and subregional work, UNODC provided country-level support to States parties on issues related to international cooperation on numerous occasions. For example, in April 2022, in Benin, the Office provided legislative advice on the revision of the criminal procedure code, including on provisions related to international cooperation, based on recommendations arising from the Implementation Review Mechanism. In Indonesia, UNODC conducted a study and presented a series of round-table discussions for enhancing the overall capacity of government agencies in the areas of mutual legal assistance and asset recovery. In Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam, UNODC organized training programmes on financial investigations with a focus on international cooperation and mutual legal assistance. UNODC was invited to contribute to a national workshop for Somali stakeholders on building strong procedural mechanisms for mutual legal assistance and extradition in February 2023 in Nairobi.

67. Since the previous progress report of the expert meeting for the Conference of States Parties, and through its Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime, UNODC organized, contributed to or supported more than 50 activities, including national and regional capacity-building workshops with a strong focus on enhancing cooperation between law enforcement and criminal justice authorities and sports organizations. UNODC also collaborated with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) to implement, as part of the FIFA Global Integrity Programme, virtual workshops for over 400 integrity officers and government officials from around the globe. In addition, the FIFA Integrity Task Force monitored the World Cup in Qatar in 2022, the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in 2023. The Integrity Task Force was an initiative aimed at protecting the World Cups in 2022 and 2023 from the manipulation of matches. It monitored integrity-related matters and involved international cooperation among the members. UNODC also contributed to a monitoring exercise for the Rugby World Cup in 2023, which also involved establishing a group of stakeholders to enhance international cooperation to tackle integrity threats to the tournament.

68. UNODC participated in meetings and conferences on international cooperation, including meetings of the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, the anti-corruption working group of BRICS, composed of Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa, and the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts Working Group of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. UNODC briefed the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group on different aspects of international cooperation, including law enforcement cooperation, the sharing of information, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery. In addition, the Office supported the Indian presidency of the Group of 20 in the development of deliverables regarding law enforcement cooperation and asset recovery. In this context, UNODC cooperated closely with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

69. Four knowledge sessions were delivered virtually by the GlobE Network in 2022 and 2023 to enhance practitioners' capacity in forensic audit techniques; the use of TRACK and other UNODC tools; cryptocurrencies; and internet investigations and open sources.

70. Furthermore, as UNODC continued to provide technical assistance in relation to asset recovery, which frequently overlapped with technical needs related to international cooperation based on the Convention, a detailed description of those technical assistance activities, including through the StAR Initiative, is contained in the progress report on the activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery and the work of UNODC to promote asset recovery ([CAC/COSP/2023/14](#)).

71. Further information can be found in the note by the Secretariat containing an analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews and assistance delivered by UNODC in support of the implementation of the Convention against Corruption ([CAC/COSP/2023/10](#)).

72. The secretariat will continue to expand its analytical work with regard to challenges in international cooperation based on the Convention, as well as to provide and coordinate numerous technical assistance activities in this field.

#### IV. Reporting and follow-up

73. As a follow-up to various commitments in relation to international cooperation made in the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, and after consideration of the activities carried out at the eleventh and twelfth expert meetings, the Conference may wish to consider providing further guidance on:

(a) The development of guidelines, good practices, knowledge products and other tools to improve the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention to advance international cooperation;

(b) Ways to encourage information-sharing and address existing challenges noted in the implementation of chapter V;

(c) The gathering of information in order to improve the effectiveness of international cooperation, including by ensuring proper coordination among national competent authorities involved in responding to requests for international cooperation in criminal matters under the Convention;

(d) The role of UNODC, including through its regional hubs and platforms and in coordination with the GlobE Network, in identifying training and capacity-building needs of competent authorities involved in international cooperation, including technical assistance, in order to enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation;

(e) Ways of collaboration between the GlobE Network and existing multilateral institutions and mechanisms, including formal international forums and networks dedicated to international cooperation and law enforcement.

74. Furthermore, the Conference may wish to encourage States parties to:

(a) Invite anti-corruption law enforcement authorities that have not yet joined the GlobE Network to consider doing so and expedite the processing of applications; encourage participating authorities to effectively participate in and contribute to the Network; and disseminate information about the Network to relevant stakeholders within their jurisdictions;

(b) Provide statistical information on international cooperation cases as requesting and requested States, and share information on barriers to exchange information in an effective manner among the law enforcement authorities in combating the offences covered by the Convention.

75. Moreover, the Conference may wish to consider ways to ensure synergies between the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation under the Convention and the work of the Working Group on International Cooperation established by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

76. In the context of the expert meeting, attention could also be drawn to the need to devote adequate resources to training and capacity-building of competent authorities engaged in international cooperation, including by donors and technical assistance providers, to enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation.

77. Specific reference could be made to the promotion of the use of information and communications technologies in the implementation of the Convention and the non-binding guidelines for strengthening international and multilateral cooperation to further prevent, identify, investigate and prosecute corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery.

78. Finally, the Conference may wish to consider whether additional actions should be undertaken by the secretariat to ensure the implementation of the relevant mandates and adopt a workplan for the expert meeting for the period 2024–2025.

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