

10 December 2021

English only

Ninth session

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 13–17 December 2021

GlobE Network: Background and outcomes of the 1st meeting including the Charter**Background**

One of the main purposes of the United Nations Convention against Corruption is to promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including in asset recovery. The Conference of the States Parties to the Convention has repeatedly called for enhanced measures to further promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption.

The GlobE Network was established in 2021 under the auspices of UNODC to facilitate informal cooperation and to address the lack of a truly global network for anti-corruption law enforcement authorities. Pursuant to the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption, the GlobE Network aims at providing a quick, agile and efficient tool for facilitating transnational cooperation in combating corruption and strengthening communication exchange and peer learning between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities. The GlobE Network is designed to complement and coordinate with existing networks and to ensure mutual support and synergies.

The proposal for the GlobE Network was originally conceived under the presidency of Saudi Arabia of the G20 in 2020, in the form of the Riyadh initiative for enhancing international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation, which was welcomed by the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting held on 22 October 2020 and the G20 Leaders' Summit held on 21 and 22 November 2020.

Process of establishing the Network

In order to prepare for the establishment of the GlobE Network, UNODC convened an online meeting of experts on 3 and 4 March 2021, which brought together over 130 technical experts and participants from 53 States from the five regional groups of the United Nations and 21 international organizations and entities. The participants proposed establishing different interim task forces to advise on various components of the Network.

Pursuant to the proposal made at that meeting, UNODC invited States, through the five regional groups of the United Nations, to nominate experts and representatives of relevant international organizations and networks, as well as renowned individual experts, to participate in the three interim task forces: (a) Interim Task Force 1, on

* Reissued for technical reasons on 15 December 2021.



set-up and operations of the GlobE Network; (b) Interim Task Force 2, on synergies with other existing networks and platforms; and (c) Interim Task Force 3, on tools and services of the Network. The interim task forces were composed of 90 experts from 28 States and 13 international organizations, networks and entities, and held 16 meetings in April and May 2021 to discuss an array of issues relating to the establishment of the Network.

The three interim task forces produced different outputs, including: (a) key elements for the charter of the GlobE Network (Interim Task Force1); (b) mapping chart for the membership of different networks, recommendations for enhancing synergies between the Network and existing networks (Interim Task Force2) and the initial structure of the Decision Tree (joint product with Interim Task Force 3); and (c) initial concepts for the one-stop hub, the secure communication platform, the development of knowledge products and the deployment of rapid capacity development. A road map towards the establishment of the Network was also developed. It contained the Network's framework, which included its principal elements and provided the basis for joining and further developing the Network. All these documents can be accessed on the GlobE Network website <https://globenetwork.unodc.org>.

Launch and membership drive

On 3 June 2021, the GlobE Network was officially launched at a high-level side event on the margins of the special session of the General Assembly against corruption. The launch of the Network marked the culmination of intensive work undertaken by experts from all regional groups of the United Nations and relevant international organizations and networks, as well as individual experts from around the world.

Based on the road map, on 5 July 2021, the Secretariat sent to States parties a note verbale inviting specialized authorities falling under article 36 of the Convention to join the Network. The Network, which is open to Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities of Member States of the United Nations and States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, has grown rapidly since its launch. As of 7 December 2021, it counts 79 member authorities from 47 States.

First meeting

The GlobE Network held its first meeting from 15 to 17 November 2021 in Vienna. 125 participants joined the open session on the first day of the meeting while 74 experts from 43 authorities from 38 different States participated in the deliberations during the closed session which was restricted to GlobE member authorities.

In addition to general awareness raising, particularly during the open session, the objectives of the first meeting were to (1) provide an opportunity for authorities to meet, connect and build a Network owned by its members; (2) adopt and establish the governance structure of the Network; (3) chart out the next steps and delivery road map for: (a) ensuring synergies with other networks; and (b) developing the tools and services of the network (one-stop hub, help-desk, knowledge and capacity-building).

Discussions during this meeting led to an agreement on the GlobE Charter and to the establishment of the GlobE governance structure to ensure that the Network's activities directly reflect the on-the-ground realities of the members themselves.

Spain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were selected as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Network, with authorities from Chile, China, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, North Macedonia, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, the State of Palestine, the United States of America, and Zimbabwe chosen as the other members of the Steering Committee.

Other proposals arising from the meeting, such as proposals on reducing duplication and enhancing synergies with other networks, establishment of the One-Stop-Hub, including the Secure Communication Platform and Decision Tree, and establishment of a Help Desk and other Sub-Groups to advise on different aspects of the GlobE Network would be further submitted to the Steering Committee for its consideration.

Charter *of* The GlobE Network



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Preamble

Recognizing the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) adopted on 31 October 2003, which entered into force on 14 December 2005;

Recognizing the political declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly at its Special Session against Corruption on 2 June 2021;

Recognizing that cooperation between and among anti-corruption law enforcement authorities across national borders both increases the effectiveness of individual authorities and contributes to the success of the global fight against corruption;

Recognizing that effective international cooperation between and among anti-corruption law enforcement authorities must be based on a foundation of mutual trust;

Recognizing that obstacles continue to limit information exchange and effective cooperation between many anti-corruption law enforcement authorities;

Recalling that the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention has repeatedly called for enhanced measures to further promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, and has requested UNODC, as the guardian of the Convention, to provide, in its programs of technical assistance, measures to enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation, including in relation to offences covered by the Convention, before seeking mutual legal assistance;

Recalling that each State Party to UNCAC shall, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system, ensure the existence of a body or bodies or persons specialized in combating corruption through law enforcement and that such body or bodies or persons shall be granted the necessary independence [...] to be able to carry out their functions effectively and without any undue influence (Article 36 UNCAC);

Recalling that States Parties to UNCAC shall afford one another the widest measure of mutual legal assistance in investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings in relation to the offences covered by UNCAC (Article 46 UNCAC);

Recalling that States Parties to UNCAC shall cooperate closely with one another, consistent with their respective domestic legal and administrative systems, to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement action to combat the offences covered by UNCAC (Article 48 UNCAC);

Recalling that States Parties to UNCAC may consider UNCAC to be the basis for mutual law enforcement cooperation in respect of the offences covered by UNCAC (Article 48 UNCAC);

Recalling that States Parties to UNCAC shall take effective measures to enhance and, where necessary, to establish channels of communication between their competent authorities, agencies and services in order to facilitate the secure and rapid exchange of information concerning all aspects of the offences covered by UNCAC (Article 48 UNCAC);

Taking note of the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies adopted in November 2012 to ensure the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies (ACAs), including those with law enforcement mandates;

Considering the need to strengthen the effectiveness of international cooperation between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities;

Mindful of the rule of law, integrity, transparency, accountability, international peace and security, economic and social development and human rights;

Taking note of the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting on 22 October 2020 and the G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders Declaration, which, inter alia, welcomed the "Riyadh Initiative for Enhancing International Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Cooperation, through the Creation of a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities";

The GlobE Network is established under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and is open to Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities of Member States of the United Nations and State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Network was launched on the occasion of the Special Session of the General Assembly against corruption on 3 June 2021.

SECTION I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Paragraph 1: Definitions

For the purposes of this Charter:

- a) "Anti-corruption Law Enforcement Authorities" shall mean specialized authorities as referred to in Article 36 of the Convention;
- b) "Chair" shall mean Chair of the Plenary and the Steering Committee;
- c) "Convention" shall mean the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
- d) "GlobE Network" or "the Network" shall mean the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities;
- e) "Member State" shall mean Member State of the United Nations;
- f) "State party" shall mean State party to the Convention;
- g) "UNODC" shall mean United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
- h) "Vice-Chair" shall mean Vice-Chair of the Plenary and the Steering Committee.

SECTION II: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NETWORK

Paragraph 2: Introduction

The GlobE Network is established under the auspices of UNODC to facilitate informal inter-agency cooperation among Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, as referred to in article 48 of the Convention.

Paragraph 3: Name

The name of the network shall be the "Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities", referred to as "GlobE Network".

SECTION III: VISION, AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Paragraph 4: Vision

Timely and efficient transnational informal cooperation and collaboration against corruption.

Paragraph 5: Aim

The aim of the GlobE Network is to provide a quick, agile and efficient tool for facilitating transnational cooperation in combating corruption, strengthening communication exchange and peer learning between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities, while complementing and coordinating with relevant international cooperation platforms.

Paragraph 6: Objectives

The GlobE Network shall pursue the following objectives:

- a) Facilitate direct and informal cooperation between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities to prevent and combat corruption;
- b) Establish secure channels of communication;
- c) Facilitate, as may be requested and agreed, parallel and/or joint bilateral or multilateral investigations;
- d) Facilitate consultation between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities in order to promote effective mutual legal assistance in transnational corruption cases;
- e) Enhance the knowledge, innovation and capacities of anti-corruption law enforcement authorities and exchange good practice;
- f) Develop an online one-stop hub to facilitate access to knowledge products and to information on capacity building programmes;
- g) Complement and ensure synergies with other relevant networks and stakeholders; and

- h) Any other objective agreed upon by its members, to facilitate cooperation in combatting corruption.

SECTION IV: MEMBERSHIP OF THE NETWORK

Paragraph 7: Membership criteria and process

- a) Membership of the GlobE Network is open to specialized authorities as referred to in Article 36 of the Convention (anti-corruption law enforcement authorities) from all Member States and States Parties;
- b) Anti-corruption law enforcement authorities may transmit their request to join the GlobE Network, through their country's Permanent Mission to the UN;
- c) When considering joining the Network, authorities are encouraged to review, wherever possible, the information provided by their country under article 36 in the context of the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism;
- d) Where the number of requests exceeds 3 per country, the Permanent Secretariat shall request the Permanent Mission to identify the 3 authorities to be members of the Network;
- e) Other relevant national authorities will also be able to benefit from and contribute to the work of the Network according to a mechanism to be established by the members;
- f) An additional 3 specialized authorities from "special status jurisdictions" of Member States or States Parties may transmit their request to join the GlobE Network, through their country's Permanent Mission to the UN;
- g) Members may withdraw their membership from the Network at any time by giving notice to the Permanent Secretariat through a Note Verbale sent by their respective Member State or State Party.

SECTION V: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Paragraph 8: Governance

The organisational structure of the GlobE Network comprises three (3) bodies:

- a) The Plenary;
- b) The Steering Committee; and
- c) The Permanent Secretariat

In addition to the principal bodies listed above, the Plenary or the Steering Committee can also create subsidiary bodies as the need arises towards realising the objectives of the GlobE Network.

Sub-Section I: The Plenary

Paragraph 9: Composition, Participation and Decision-making Process

- a) The Plenary is comprised of the Members;
- b) The Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee are also the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Plenary respectively and may be supported by other members of the Steering Committee;
- c) The Plenary shall have an ordinary session convened by the Chair once a year and an extraordinary session whenever necessary, on the basis of an agenda determined by the Steering Committee;
- d) Decisions relevant to the functioning of the Network shall be taken by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be taken by simple majority voting;
- e) Only Members attending the Plenary may vote on the basis that members designated by the same Member State or State party will jointly have one vote in the Plenary meetings;
- f) Global and regional networks, organisations and other bodies engaged with the law enforcement operational activities contributing to the investigation and prosecution of corruption and related asset recovery and those that perform a complementary strategic function in targeting corruption shall be considered and endorsed by the GlobE Steering Committee as observers. They may attend, upon invitation of the steering committee, selected sessions of the GlobE Network Plenary meetings.

Paragraph 10: Responsibilities of the Plenary

The Plenary is the governing body of the Network. It shall be responsible for making decisions relevant to the functioning of the Network, including:

- a) Adopting and reviewing the Charter, the internal rules of procedure or any other instrument that may be required for the Network to function effectively;
- b) Selecting members of the Steering Committee;
- c) Validating the status of observers;
- d) Adopting the annual workplan of the Network and approving the annual activities report;
- e) Deciding on any other matter necessary for the Network to function effectively.

Sub-Section II: The Steering Committee

Paragraph 11: Composition of the Steering Committee and Decision-making Process

- a) The Steering Committee is the managing body of the Network. It is composed of up to fifteen members selected by the Plenary as follows:
 1. Chair;
 2. Vice-Chair and
 3. Up to thirteen members.
- b) The composition of the Steering Committee should reflect as much as possible the United Nations Regional Groups;
- c) The Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Steering Committee are selected for a term of three (3) years from authorities that express interest. If more than one authority from the same country expressed interest, they will be considered as one;
- d) The Chair and the Vice-Chair should be selected on a rotational basis between the United Nations Regional Groups;
- e) The Steering Committee should meet at least two times a year and as often as required in the interest of the Network at the request of the Chair or two members of the Steering Committee;
- f) Decisions should be taken by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be taken by voting.

Paragraph 12: Responsibilities of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee shall be responsible for:

- a) Guiding the Network and its Plenary to ensure that its stated vision, aim and objectives are achieved;
- b) Reviewing and approving requests for Observer status;
- c) Preparing the annual workplan, in coordination and with the support of the Permanent Secretariat;
- d) Presenting the annual report and workplan to the Plenary;
- e) Planning and preparing annual Plenary meetings, extraordinary Plenary meetings and suggesting thematic working groups;
- f) Ensuring that Plenary decisions are implemented and assess their impact on the growth and efficiency of the Network;
- g) Representing the Network in national and international fora;

- h) Mobilizing additional financial support for the Network from UN Member States and other donors, as appropriate;
- i) Deciding on other measures necessary for the Network to function effectively.

Sub-section III: The Permanent Secretariat

Paragraph 13: Composition and Functions

- a) The Permanent Secretariat function for the Network is provided and administered by the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Permanent Secretariat shall be composed of qualified personnel with specialized skills and expertise, including language skills, to respond to all the demands and needs of members.
- b) The Permanent Secretariat is responsible for supporting the effective functioning of the day-to-day activities of the Network, including the sessions of the Plenary and the Steering Committee, and performs the following functions:
 - i. Support the daily activities of the Network
 - ii. Maintain a list of Members and their Contact Points;
 - iii. Inform members of decisions of the Plenary and the Steering Committee;
 - iv. Send invitations for meetings of the Network;
 - v. Prepare meeting documents;
 - vi. Support the preparation and maintain the workplans of the Network;
 - vii. Assist in raising funds, as may be appropriate, to enable the Network to achieve its vision, aim and objectives;
 - viii. Build synergies with other relevant networks and bodies;
 - ix. Maintain the tools and services of the Network;
 - x. Manage the selection processes;
 - xi. Oversee and coordinate outreach and communications in connection with the GlobE Network with the support of the Steering Committee and the members;
 - xii. Carry out all other tasks as requested by the Plenary and the Steering Committee, within available resources.
- c) The Permanent Secretariat is managed by a staff member designated as “Coordinator of the Network”.

SECTION VI: FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Paragraph 14: Sources of funds

The Network's financial resources is comprised mainly of:

- a) Voluntary contributions by UN Member States;
- b) In-kind contributions and other forms of financial assistance from individuals or entities, if accepted by the UN Secretariat.

Paragraph 15: Management of Resources

The financial resources of the GlobE Network shall be managed as per the UN rules and procedures.

SECTION VII: MECHANISM FOR ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER

Paragraph 16: The Charter

- a) The Charter shall be adopted and can be amended at the request of the Steering Committee or of any Member by a decision of the Plenary taken by consensus. In the absence of consensus, a majority of 2/3 of the attending and voting members, as per paragraph 9(e), is required;
- b) Prior to the adoption of the Charter and to the approval of any future amendments to the Charter, the Permanent Secretariat shall ensure that the text of the Charter and any amendments to the Charter are in line with the UN principles, rules and regulations, and can be implemented using available resources.

SECTION VIII: FINAL PROVISIONS

Paragraph 17: Official Working Language

The working language of the GlobE Network is English.

Interpretation and translation services will be provided by the Permanent Secretariat when feasible and within existing resources.