



Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

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Open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Vienna, 4–8 September 2023

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

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

Progress in implementing the mandates of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Note by the Secretariat

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 with respect to extradition and mutual legal assistance.
2. In the same resolution, the Conference also decided that the expert meetings should perform the following functions: (a) assist it in developing cumulative knowledge in the area of international cooperation; (b) assist it in encouraging cooperation among relevant existing bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives and contribute to the implementation of the related provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption under the guidance of the Conference; (c) facilitate the exchange of experiences among States by identifying challenges and disseminating information on good practices to be followed in order to strengthen capacities at the national level; (d) build confidence and encourage cooperation between requesting and requested States by bringing together relevant competent authorities, anti-corruption bodies and practitioners involved in mutual legal assistance and extradition; and (e) assist the Conference in identifying the capacity-building needs of States.
3. The first to eleventh expert meetings were held annually from 2012 to 2022.

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



4. In paragraph 8 of its resolution 8/2, the Conference called upon States parties to further promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, in line with article 1 (b) of the Convention against Corruption, with a view to facilitating the implementation of article 43 of the Convention. In addition, in line with Conference resolutions 8/1 and 8/6 and the recommendations agreed at the eighth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention, held in May 2019 (see [CAC/COSP/EG.1/2019/4](#)), States parties were encouraged to continue to provide to the secretariat information on challenges and good practices in international cooperation and with respect to other topics outlined in Conference resolutions and the recommendations of the expert meetings so that the secretariat could continue its analytical work with regard to challenges in international cooperation on the basis of the Convention and on the implementation of chapter IV. In line with the recommendations of the same meeting, States parties were also encouraged to share information on their legal requirements for international cooperation as well as statistical information and examples relevant to international cooperation in transnational corruption cases.

5. In paragraph 18 of resolution 9/3, 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 paragraph 19 of 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 requests the secretariat to report on such efforts to the relevant subsidiary bodies.

6. Moreover, in paragraph 6 of resolution 9/5, States parties invited the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 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 may include a secure platform for confidential communication among Network members, and to keep States parties apprised of its progress in this regard.

7. Furthermore, 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: (a) collect, 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; (b) analyse, with the support of the secretariat, the information received, 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; requested to draft guidelines on corruption in emergencies.

8. Moreover in resolution 9/2, entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthening international cooperation: follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, the Conference requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to prepare a comprehensive report for the Conference on the state of implementation of the Convention after the completion of the current review phase, taking into account information on gaps, challenges, obstacles, lessons learned and best practices in preventing and combating corruption, in international

cooperation and in asset recovery since the Convention entered into force. The Conference also requested the secretariat to continue, as appropriate, to conduct the necessary surveys on particular gaps, challenges, lessons learned and best practices in prevention, criminalization, law enforcement, international cooperation and asset recovery and return; such as contributions on good practices and progress made in the use of international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention.

9. The present document has been prepared to inform the expert meeting of the status of implementation of its recommendations and the resolutions of the Conference relating to international cooperation. Its purpose is to assist the twelfth expert meeting in its deliberations and in determining its future activities.

II. Overview of the status of implementation of the recommendations of the expert meeting and the mandates issued by the Conference of the States Parties

10. Previous expert meetings 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.

A. Developing cumulative knowledge

1. Promoting the use of information and communication technologies for the implementation of the Convention

11. To implement the mandates of Conference resolutions 9/3 and 9/5 the secretariat prepared a questionnaire requesting information from States parties on the use of information and communication technologies in the field of international cooperation relating to corruption offences, with a view to using the input received as a basis for a note to identify good practices in the development, access and use of information and communications technologies in this area. The questionnaire also collected information in relation to the proposed development of the online one-stop hub of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network). A note verbale containing the questionnaire was sent to States parties on 1 June 2023.

12. The secretariat analysed the responses submitted by States parties. The main observations stemming from the analysis of the information received from States parties are made available through a conference room paper entitled 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).

2. Gathering information on best practices and challenges concerning international cooperation in combating corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery

13. In its resolution 9/1, 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.

14. 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”.

15. Also in the same resolution, the Conference invited the secretariat, within existing resources, to compile a report on the links between corruption and other forms of crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime, including money-laundering, including during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery. The report is to be based on the voluntary information provided by States parties and submitted to the Conference at its tenth session.

16. Pursuant to the aforementioned mandates the secretariat issued the conference room paper entitled “Best practices and challenges concerning international cooperation in combating corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, and efforts to further explore and enhance knowledge of the links between corruption and other forms of crime” (CAC/COSP/EG.1/2022/CRP.1), which was made available to the eleventh expert meeting. The conference room paper was based on information provided by 23 States parties in response to a note verbale sent by the secretariat on 27 July 2022 inviting contributions. States parties were encouraged in their responses to take a broad view of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, including humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters, conflict and post-conflict contexts, and health emergencies such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The submissions were made available online, including four additional submissions received after the deadline. In their responses, States parties provided relevant information, including examples of measures they had taken to further prevent, identify, investigate and prosecute corruption, whether domestic or transnational, during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, including through international cooperation. A majority of the submissions contained information on corruption risks and typologies, including transnational elements, during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery. States also highlighted a number of safeguards and measures taken to address corruption through different means and mechanisms at domestic levels and through international cooperation, as well as views and perspectives on the effectiveness of international cooperation methods and frameworks to respond to corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery. Important measures consistently highlighted were the use of information and communications technology tools, the collection of data and statistics to track and analyse trends concerning international cooperation in those contexts, informal means of cooperation and the use of practitioner networks. The delivery of training to public officials and the conclusion of agreements containing provisions related to emergency situations were also noted. States parties also shared information on key preventive measures taken to address corruption at the domestic level.

17. During the eleventh expert meeting, UNODC organized a panel discussion on strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery. Eight panellists shared their perspectives and experiences in responding to corruption during times of emergency. Delegations welcomed the presentations and shared their key responses, lessons learned and good practices at domestic, international and multilateral levels.

18. On the basis of the conference room paper and the discussions during the eleventh expert meeting, UNODC and the Administrative Control Authority of Egypt convened an expert meeting from 12 to 13 December 2022 in Cairo, Egypt, to inform further deliberations leading to the development of 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. Fifty-two experts from judicial bodies, law enforcement, anti-corruption authorities, government institutions, academia, civil society and international organizations attended the expert meeting. The meeting served to: (a) better contextualize the emergency landscape, including challenges, corruption risks and institutional constraints that may impact effective responses to and recovery

from crises; (b) identify key responses, lessons learned and good practices to address corruption and strengthen international and multilateral cooperation during emergencies, in order to inform the thematic topics to be addressed in the guidelines; and (c) inform the development of non-binding guidelines for eventual consideration by the expert meeting to enhance international cooperation.

19. Building on the outcomes of the expert meeting and the above-mentioned deliberations, the secretariat prepared a zero draft of the non-binding guidelines and held further focused consultations with the group of experts who attended the meeting in Cairo, as well as a wider community of anti-corruption policymakers and practitioners to validate the draft, which is made available to the twelfth expert meeting to enhance international cooperation (CAC/COSP/EG.1/2023/3).

20. In the aforementioned conference room paper, the secretariat also analysed information provided by States parties on the links between corruption and other forms of crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime, including money-laundering, including during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, with a view to preparing a report on this topic for the Conference at its tenth session. As described in the conference room paper, most States parties reported that they had taken steps to enhance knowledge of the links between corruption and other forms of crime, in particular economic crime and money-laundering, such as strategic crime analyses and risk assessments. States reported that these assessments revealed significant crime typologies and provided an evidence base for the development or strengthening of national responses and mitigation measures in three main areas: (a) national strategies and policies against corruption and other types of crime; (b) the strengthening of institutional capacities and responses by law enforcement and competent national authorities; and (c) mechanisms to enhance domestic coordination and international cooperation. In this context, States parties also referred to the important role of technical assistance and capacity-building in addressing the links between corruption and other forms of crime.

3. Information and knowledge products relevant to the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention

21. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued to develop and disseminate guides, handbooks and other tools. Thus far, more than 40 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 regional knowledge products relevant to international cooperation, as outlined in the progress report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery.¹

22. In November 2022, the GlobE Network updated its first knowledge tool: the Network Membership Mapping Chart, which provides information on the membership of all UNCAC States parties in 23 relevant global and regional networks, as well as the contact details for their secretariats. The Mapping Chart is available on the GlobE website.²

23. The GlobE Network also developed an initial version of the Compendium of Practices on Informal Cooperation in Transnational Corruption Cases, with inputs from 25 member authorities of 21 countries on good practices and prevalent challenges in informal cooperation as experienced by practitioners in actual cases, and provided recommendations for efficient and effective informal cooperation. The

¹ Additional information on knowledge products relevant to international cooperation in support of asset recovery is contained in the note by the Secretariat on progress in implementing the mandates of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery prepared for the seventeenth meeting of the Working Group (CAC/COSP/WG.2/2023/2).

² It can be accessed on the following link: <https://globenetwork.unodc.org/globenetwork/en/documents.html>.

compendium is currently being updated with further inputs and examples from member authorities and the aim is to make it a public knowledge product.

24. The Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (ROSEAP) launched in May 2023 a new tool for international cooperation in criminal matters, the 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. UNODC continued to coordinate the South-East Asia Justice Network, which facilitates mutual legal assistance among the central authorities for mutual legal assistance in the region to promote cooperation to combat corruption.

25. 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.³ The documents aimed at enhancing these jurisdictions' international cooperation capacities.

26. In November 2022, UNODC published an advocacy paper entitled *Crime, corruption and wrongdoing in the transfer of football players and other athletes*. The report examines the issues of crime and corruption in the transfer of athletes, including internationally, with the aim of supporting governments, sports organizations and other relevant stakeholders in their efforts to prevent and combat crime and wrongdoing associated with the systems used for the transfer of athletes.

27. Moreover, in order to make the UNODC Global Report on Corruption in Sport available to a wider public, UNODC translated it into Russian, Spanish, Khmer, Malay, Thai and Vietnamese. The report is a landmark publication that highlights the scale, manifestation and complexity of corruption in sports. The publication entitled *Legal Approaches to Tackling the Manipulation of Sports Competitions and Reporting Mechanisms in Sport: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation*, which was developed in partnership with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), was also translated into Khmer, Lao, Malay, Thai and Vietnamese.

28. The Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK)⁴ portal, created in 2010 as a knowledge management portal focused on the implementation of the Convention, was expanded in 2022 with a bibliographic database which currently focuses on various aspects of corruption and gender. A further expansion of the bibliographic database to other thematic areas is under preparation. The portal is also 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.

29. A key element of the TRACK portal is its Legal Library, which brings together legislation from over 180 jurisdictions worldwide. This geographical coverage serves to enable judges, prosecutors, policymakers, legal practitioners, researchers and other interested parties to consult legislative provisions in different jurisdictions to identify good practices and challenges and to develop model legislation. The teams of TRACK and the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC)⁵ platform

³ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

⁴ Available at <https://track.unodc.org/>.

⁵ SHERLOC is another knowledge management portal maintained by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the three Protocols thereto and the international legal framework against terrorism.

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 fusion of TRACK and SHERLOC will allow the sharing of UNODC expertise with a wider audience and the fostering greater inclusiveness.

30. With a similar intention of reaching the widest possible audience, the university module series on organized crime, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, firearms, cybercrime, wildlife crime as well as counter-terrorism, which were originally developed under the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative, were integrated into SHERLOC in 2022 within the framework of its Education for Universities (Edu4U) programme. Two further university module series – one on anti-corruption and the other on integrity and ethics, initially also conceived under the E4J initiative and updated in 2022 – can be found on the portal of the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE). All 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.

B. Building confidence and trust between requesting and requested States

1. Central authorities

31. 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.

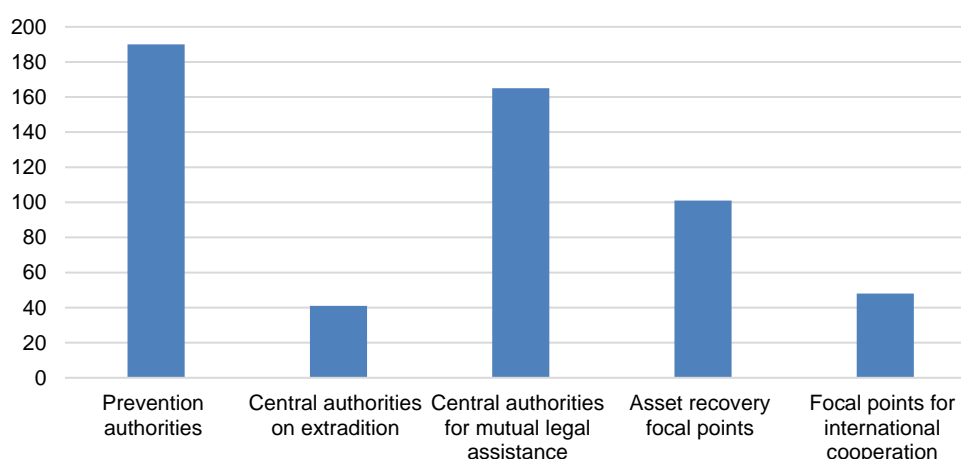
32. In line with the recommendation of the expert meeting, the secretariat continued to update the online directory of competent national authorities (available at <https://sherloc.unodc.org/cld/v3/sherloc/cna/index.jspx>).

33. As of June 2023, the directory contained information on the following:

- (a) 190 prevention authorities from 122 States parties;
- (b) 41 central authorities on extradition from 37 States parties;
- (c) 165 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.

Figure I

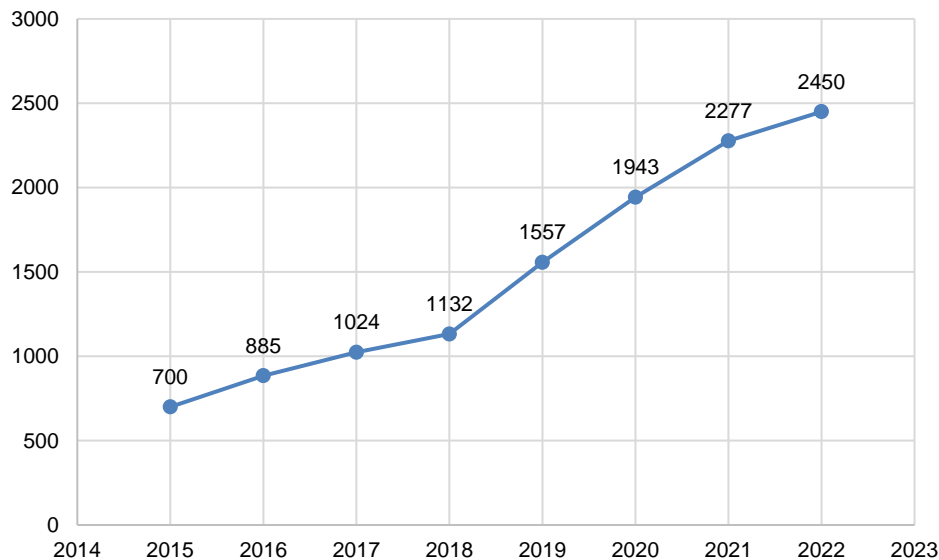
Number of designated competent national authorities by type



34. 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 of users with access to the online directory of competent national authorities has been steadily growing since 2015.

Figure II

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



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

35. The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (Globe Network) was established in June 2021 by UNODC to facilitate informal cooperation and to address the lack of a truly global network for anti-corruption law enforcement authorities. In the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, States were encouraged to participate in and make best use of the Network, as appropriate.

36. Since its launch, the Globe Network has grown rapidly. As of June 2023, it included 154 authorities from 87 States parties to the Convention and three observers.

37. The Globe Network continues to complement existing networks and ensure mutual support and synergies in that regard, pursuant to the call contained in the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption. In this context, the third plenary meeting of the Globe Network was held in Madrid from 16 to 17 November 2022. The meeting was attended by 183 participants of 84 member authorities from 71 countries and four international organizations. The third plenary meeting of the Globe Network:

(a) Facilitated 47 bilateral meetings for anti-corruption law enforcement practitioners to directly exchange information, including on specific cases;

(b) Adopted the Strategic Workplan 2023 focusing on the Network's three principal objectives: facilitating informal cooperation, establishing secure channels of communication, and enhancing knowledge and capacity;

(c) Adopted the Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Globe Members;

(d) Validated two observers: the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and the Forum of Financial Intelligence Units of the GIABA Member States (West African FIUs);

(e) Discussed the mechanism to involve national competent authorities beyond the three member authorities in accordance with paragraph 7(e) of the GlobE Charter.

38. The fourth plenary meeting of the GlobE Network is to be held in Vienna from 11 to 13 July 2023. The meeting will discuss organizational issues, host thematic discussions on the exchange of information among GlobE member authorities and the use of technology and innovation to fight corruption, and provide an opportunity for the members of the GlobE Network, its observers and other participants to engage in formal and informal bilateral and multilateral discussions on operational and strategic issues, including a dedicated GlobE-StAR forum for Moldova to facilitate discussions on ongoing cases.

39. GlobE Threema, a tailored version of Threema Work – a secure corporate communication solution – was rolled out in 2022 exclusively for GlobE practitioners free of charge. Access to GlobE Threema is granted to designated representatives of the GlobE Network members. As of May 2023, 115 credentials had been activated, with approximately 30 active users.

40. Three Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) were established at the end of 2022 to support the work of the Steering Committee and the Plenary of the GlobE Network. The TWGs respectively focus on operation, One-Stop Hub, and knowledge and capacity development. The first meetings of the TWGs were organized on 7, 8, and 9 February 2023 and the second meetings on 16 May 2023.

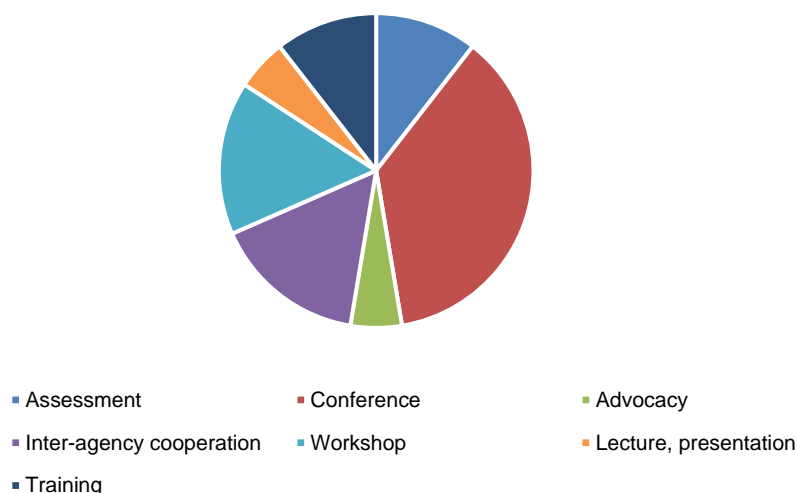
41. Anti-corruption law enforcement authorities were encouraged to join the GlobE Network, in response to the call contained in the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption. In addition, UNODC will continue building the infrastructure and resources for the Network on the basis of the guidance and outputs of the three thematic working groups.

C. Identification of capacity-building needs of States, technical assistance and other activities relevant to international cooperation

42. UNODC continued to provide tailored capacity-building and advisory services at the global, regional and national levels and to participate in meetings and conferences aimed at promoting international cooperation among States parties. The graph below depicts the number of activities organized by UNODC or in which UNODC have participated from January to June 2023.

Figure III

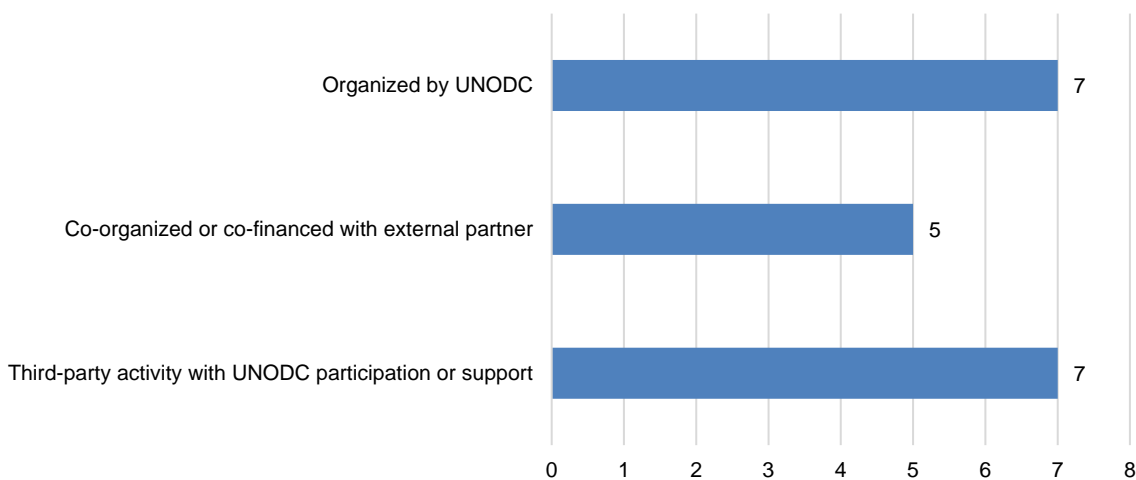
Activities related to international cooperation implemented by type



43. UNODC has experienced steady growth in demand for country-level technical assistance regarding international cooperation. The UNODC anti-corruption hub in Mexico and country-based anti-corruption advisers played an important role in providing rapid, demand-driven expert assistance and advice. This advisory work has resulted in a wide variety of activities delivered.

44. The graphics on the activities related to international cooperation implemented by UNODC that are included in this report contain information from January to June 2023 and will be updated in future iterations of this report. The graph below depicts the different activities related to international cooperation in which UNODC has participated within that time frame, organized by their ownership.

Figure IV
Activities by ownership



45. Further, aiming to strengthen regional collaboration, UNODC has been supporting States in the creation of regional anti-corruption platforms to fast-track the implementation of UNCAC. These platforms comprise countries from the same region to identify shared regional anti-corruption best practices, challenges, and priorities and most of them consider international cooperation as one of the priority areas in which assistance is needed to strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

46. 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 participating from Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Paraguay.

47. Under the Regional Roadmap on Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance Flows to fast-track the implementation of the UNCAC and the Regional platform for Western Balkans created in 2021, UNODC facilitated 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 strengthening and facilitating international cooperation in the areas of asset recovery, anti-corruption investigations, international cooperation in public procurement and asset disclosure. In addition, under the framework of mentioned Roadmap, the regional component of the GlobE network for South-Eastern Europe is currently being established.

48. Moreover, the Regional Platform to fast-track the implementation of UNCAC in West Africa and the Sahel (covering Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, 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.

49. 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.

50. In addition, UNODC also conducted a number of activities to identify target countries and institutions and contribute to the elaboration of the baseline for the Caribbean Platform.

51. 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. In the area of sports, UNODC organized three workshops on the topic of safeguarding sports from corruption. The first workshop took place in Malaysia from 15 to 16 May 2023 and focused on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The two other workshops were organized in Vienna on June and July 2023, having a focus on South Asia and the Rugby Union, respectively.

52. In addition to its regional and subregional work, UNODC provided country-level support to States parties on issues related to international cooperation. In this regard, UNODC was invited to contribute to a national workshop for Somali stakeholders on building strong procedural mechanisms for mutual legal assistance and extradition on 8 February 2023 in Nairobi.

53. UNODC also regularly delivered follow-up activities in relation to the Implementation Review Mechanism such as a training in the Kingdom of Bahrain on the United Nations Convention against Corruption, with a special focus on the follow-up to recommendations that Bahrain received during its first- and second-cycle reviews.

54. Under the GlobE Network, UNODC organized two online knowledge sessions in 2022, respectively on "Forensic audit techniques, strategies and forensic analytics in detecting corruption in international investment projects" and "Use of TRACK and other UNODC Online Anti-Corruption Tools and Resources" for 230 anti-corruption practitioners, together with the Network of Anti-Corruption Practitioners along the Silk Road Economic Belt, in three different languages.

55. Furthermore, UNODC through the GlobE Network organized two online knowledge sessions on "Cryptocurrencies: A Game-Changer in Global Anti-Corruption" in 2023. One session focused on dispelling myths of digital assets and demonstrated how cryptocurrencies were instrumental in enabling tracking and supporting law enforcement. The other session focused on case studies and sought to guide participants on how to approach cases involving cryptocurrencies. A total of 538 anti-corruption practitioners attended the two sessions.

56. 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. In the context of the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, UNODC briefed the Group on different aspects of international cooperation, including law enforcement cooperation, the sharing of information, mutual legal assistance as well as asset recovery. In addition, the Office supported the Indian G20 Presidency 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. UNODC has also participated in regional and global Conferences and meetings organized by Europol, International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), the Norbert Zongo Cell for Investigative Journalism in West Africa and the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities. Moreover, UNODC continued to coordinate the South-East Asia Justice Network, which facilitates mutual legal assistance among the central authorities for mutual legal assistance in the region to promote cooperation on transnational organized crime and corruption.

57. Furthermore, 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 implementation of the mandates of the Working Group on Asset Recovery ([CAC/COSP/WG.2/2023/2](#)).

58. 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.

III. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption

59. In follow up-to the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, held in New York from 2 to 4 June 2021, and based on Conference resolution 9/2, UNODC created on the TRACK portal a repository of contributions submitted on a voluntary basis by States parties on the implementation of the Convention and the political declaration adopted at the special session, such as contributions on good practices and progress made in the use of international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention.

60. Following the deliberations made during the second resumed thirteenth session of the Implementation Review Group, held in November 2022, the secretariat proposed a multiyear workplan for the period 2024–2026 for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference to follow up on the achievements of the political declaration. The workplan, which was approved by silence procedure on 9 June 2023, assigns the follow-up to the section of the political declaration on international cooperation to the Expert meeting under its regular agenda items. In addition, under the agenda items dedicated to the follow-up to the special session, the Expert Meeting is asked at its future meetings to deliberate on measures to combat money-laundering (2023); illicit financial flows, challenges, obstacles, barriers in international cooperation; effective communication and cooperation; information-sharing, interagency approaches, law enforcement cooperation, use of networks (2024); denial of safe haven; corruption prevention in immigration/business/investment policies and refugee protection programmes (2025). Given the thematic overlap and the joint meetings with the Implementation Review Group and the Working Group on Asset Recovery, some of these items can be considered jointly by several subsidiary bodies.

IV. Reporting and follow-up

61. The secretariat will continue to collect additional information from States parties pursuant to the mandates contained in Conference resolutions 8/2, 8/6 and 9/1 and the recommendations of the expert meeting.

62. The twelfth expert meeting may wish to provide further guidance to the secretariat on which issues may deserve additional consideration in its future meetings, in addition to the follow-up on various commitments made in the political

declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption in relation to international cooperation.

63. 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.

64. Specific reference could be made to 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.

65. The expert meeting may also wish to invite States parties that have not yet done so to encourage their anti-corruption law enforcement authorities to join, effectively participate in and make best use of the GlobE Network.

66. Finally, the expert meeting may wish to consider whether additional actions should be undertaken by the secretariat to ensure the implementation of the relevant mandates.
