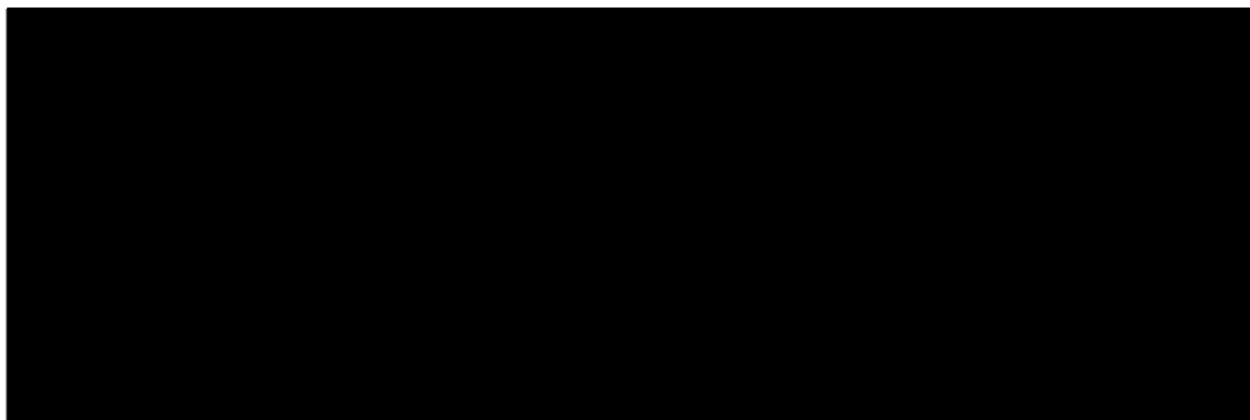


Annex to CU 2023/187/DTA/CEB/CSS

To facilitate the provision of information on good practices and challenges with respect to the use of information and communication technologies for the purpose of international cooperation and asset recovery in the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Secretariat has prepared the following questionnaire as a guide that States parties may wish to use.

The Secretariat also wishes to draw the attention of the Government to the notes entitled “The use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption” contained in documents CAC/COSP/WG.4/2016/2 and CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/2¹ and the conference room paper entitled “Responses received from States with regard to existing software programmes for case management systems in the field of international cooperation contained in document CAC/COSP/EG.1/2017/CRP.1² that could be used as background material for the completion of the questionnaire.³



I. General information on the use of information and communication technologies:

1. Has the Government used information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the context of international cooperation for the implementation of the Convention? Yes /No

a. If yes, which ICTs has the Government used in the context of international cooperation? Please choose one or more of the options below:

- Email/messaging technologies
- Videoconference platforms/services
- Word processing technologies (e.g Microsoft Word, Google Docs, Open Office, etc.)
- Publicly available websites
- Artificial intelligence

¹ CAC/COSP/WG.4/2016/2

(<https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/WorkingGroups/workinggroup4/2016-August-22-24/V1603242e.pdf>); CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/2

(https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/WorkingGroups/workinggroup4/2022-June-13-17/CAC-COSP-WG.4-2022-2_E.pdf)

² CAC/COSP/EG.1/2017/CRP.1

(<https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/WorkingGroups/EMInternationalCooperation/6-7November2017/V1707498e.pdf>)

³ Please refer to resolution 6/7 entitled “Promoting the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”

(<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/COSP/session6-resolutions.html>)

- Case management systems
- Custom-made software for management and execution of requests
- Databases (Corporation registries, Register for beneficial ownership)
- Secure data storage platforms/facilities
- Secure information exchange/communication platforms (GlobE Threema, INTERPOL I 24/7, EUROPOL SIENA)
- Translation software
- Other, please specify:

2. Please provide additional details of any ICTs that are particularly useful for international cooperation based on your experience, including any websites, resources or tools that you frequently use and find most useful.

Email is one of the primary means of communication for businesses and international teams. Popular email providers such as Gmail, Outlook, and Yahoo Mail offer reliable and convenient tools for exchanging messages and files.

Video Conferencing: Video conferencing services like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Skype allow for online meetings with participants from different countries. They enable screen sharing, file sharing, and real-time communication, making collaboration across borders seamless.

The GlobE Threema platform and the UNODC SHERLOC Information Portal are also used to some extent.

As the GlobE Network aims to provide a platform for peer-to-peer information exchange and informal cooperation to better identify, investigate and prosecute cross-border corruption offences and recover stolen assets its product GlobE Threema provides secure communication solution to facilitate timely and efficient cooperation between all GlobE practitioners, with a view to promoting informal cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of transnational corruption cases

3. If you are using software or have developed or use custom-made software in the context of international cooperation (e.g. case management for incoming and outgoing requests), please provide information on the main features of such software and how it could be useful. Additionally, would you consider making your custom-made software available to other States parties to the Convention?

Answer:

There is no software for international correspondence

II. Evaluation and good practices

4. Have you evaluated the effectiveness of using ICTs for international cooperation in the fight against corruption? Yes /No
- a. If yes, what indicators did you use for your evaluation? What was the outcome of the evaluation?
 - b. If the outcome of the evaluation was positive, how did the use of ICT facilitate international cooperation? Has the use of ICTs improved the quality of incoming and outgoing requests or their timely follow-up and reporting on international cooperation?

5. Please provide information (policies, measures, examples, case studies) of good practices in connection with your country's use of ICTs for international cooperation and asset recovery.

As a GlobE Network National Focal point we actively promote and advocate for peer-to-peer information exchange and informal cooperation between all GlobE practitioners to better identify, investigate and prosecute cross-border corruption offences and recover stolen assets. Using ICT in terms of GlobE Threema we have a good experience on information exchange and informal cooperation with our colleagues from China, Austria and Kazakhstan in the case of determining the authenticity of powers of attorney.

III. Challenges

6. Have you experienced any challenges or limitations in using ICTs in the context of international cooperation related to anti-corruption efforts? Yes /No

If yes, please indicate which of the following options are applicable:

- Lack of capacity or training
 - Lack of resources
 - Legal obstacles to the use of ICTs for the international cooperation
 - Reluctance from foreign counterparts to use ICTs
 - Security and confidentiality of sensitive information (personal data protection)
 - Technical obstacles (connectivity, access to stable internet connection, use of outdated technologies, etc.)
 - Other, please specify:
7. Please elaborate on the responses provided to question 6. If possible, please provide examples of the obstacles mentioned and describe the measures taken to overcome them.
- a. What kind of ICTs would help improve your ability to cooperate with other States on the fight against corruption?

A truly secure channel or platform for the exchange of data and information that will be recognized by states as the basis for conducting investigative actions

IV. Online one-stop hub of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network)

8. Are any law enforcement anti-corruption authorities from your country members of the Globe Network?⁴ Yes /No
- a. What online ICT services or functionality would be the most useful to your practitioners on the GlobE one stop hub, as a resource for international cooperation?

GlobE Threema working like any other messaging application, but with an emphasis on end-to-end encrypted security and professional use this ICT service provides a good opportunity to identify and establish direct contact with the central authorities of the requested States which is very important in terms of time frame issues.

⁴ The list of GlobE Members and Observers can be found in the following website:
<https://globenetwork.unodc.org/globenetwork/en/membership.html>

b. Has(ve) your GlobE member authority(ies) registered as GlobE Threema⁵ user(s)? Yes /No

- If yes, does the GlobE Threema address their needs for a secure communication platform? Yes /No

- What GlobE Threema functionality do they find the most useful for international cooperation?

Firstly, GlobE Threema enables users to initiate individual secure chat, and voice or video calls, and to share documents, images, and videos securely. Secondly, GlobE Threema works exclusively for GlobE Practitioners.

- Are there other features that your member authority(ies) require from a secure communication platform?

Please elaborate as necessary.

V. Other

9. Please provide any other information you consider relevant to your country's legal framework and practices in connection with establishing an effective use of ICTs in the international cooperation system that was not highlighted in the questions above.

Taking into account the use of ICTs in the international cooperation system, new technologies and innovations in fighting corruption an effective use of ICTs would be implementation of E-signatures solutions that would allow all GlobE practitioners to execute MLA requests in timely manner even using Globe Threema communication technologies.

⁵ Information brochure on GlobE Threema:

https://globenetwork.unodc.org/globenetwork/uploads/documents/GlobE_Threema_Brochure_-_A4_version.pdf