

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
- 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:

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>)

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.
 - GlobE – Threema Work and other Secure communication platforms (e.g Filkassen) are used to share information and documents.
 - Instant messaging and social media platforms (e.g Signal) enable real time interactions and information sharing, fostering international dialogue and cooperation.
 - Complaint Reporting Mechanism – The ICAC Website and Facebook Page allow for secure and anonymous reporting mechanisms enable individuals to provide vital information while ensuring their safety. Such platforms facilitate cross-border reporting and information sharing.
 - Training and Capacity Building - Online platforms, webinars, and e-learning modules are used to anti-corruption practitioners from different states. This promotes a common understanding of corruption-related issues and best practices.
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?

The above has not yet been developed.

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.

The Mauritian authorities investigated a case involving alleged bribes of approximately USD 1 million. The bribes were purportedly paid by a foreign company to individuals in Mauritius, including public officials. The objective of these illicit payments was to obtain confidential information related to a contract, which the company was eventually awarded. Due to the public disclosure of the investigation, it was crucial to swiftly gather evidence and prevent any potential proceeds of the crime from being concealed.

To expedite the process of gathering information and intelligence, the ICAC Mauritius directly collaborated with foreign Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) through established networks. This informal cooperation facilitated the secure and timely exchange of intelligence and information

using ICTs. The focus was primarily on suspected foreign offenders, specifically their financial transactions, communication activities, and identification of any acquired assets.

As a result of this collaborative effort, the subsequent steps for obtaining relevant documents through Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) were significantly accelerated. This allowed for the acquisition of vital evidence that could be used in the investigation.

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.

Capacity or training

There is lack of training opportunities on the use of ICT.

Resources

Investing in ICT/latest technology to promote international cooperation requires substantial funds.

Legal obstacles to the use of ICTs

The legal framework in Mauritius does not provide for the use of informally obtained information through international cooperation as evidence in court. Any information intended to be used in investigation has to be obtained through MLA.

- a. What kind of ICTs would help improve your ability to cooperate with other States on the fight against corruption?

Data Sharing and Collection Tools - These tools can include secure file-sharing platforms, cloud-based document management systems, and collaborative workspaces. They will allow sharing of information, exchanging best practices, and coordinating efforts in real-time.

Digital Databases and Information Systems: These can help streamline information management and exchange between states. These systems can store relevant data, such as financial records, asset declarations, and investigative reports. By providing a centralized repository, they allow for easy access and analysis of information by multiple states.

Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Leveraging data analytics and AI technologies can help in the identification of patterns, anomalies, and potential cases of corruption. Advanced data analysis techniques can help identify connections between individuals, transactions, and entities across different jurisdictions. This can support collaborative investigations and intelligence sharing.

It is important to note that the effectiveness of the above mentioned ICT tools heavily relies on factors such as political will, legal frameworks, institutional capacities, and international agreements on information sharing and cooperation.

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?

The Secure Communication Platform and the Knowledge Resources.

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?

The End-to-End Encryption for all messages, calls, and shared files.

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

Region Wise Working Group

Please elaborate as necessary.

Region Wise Working Group will enable to focus on specific regional issues and work towards their resolution. These working groups typically bring together representatives from different countries within a particular geographic region to facilitate communication, coordination, and joint efforts in addressing common challenges.

By bringing together stakeholders from different countries, region-wise working groups facilitate coordination and collaboration in addressing shared concerns. They allow for joint efforts, resource pooling, and the development of coordinated strategies to tackle regional issues more effectively.

⁴ The list of GlobE Members and Observers can be found in the following website:

<https://globenetwork.unodc.org/globenetwork/en/membership.html>

⁵ Information brochure on GlobE Threema:

[https://globenetwork.unodc.org/globenetwork/uploads/documents/GlobE Threema Brochure - A4 version.pdf](https://globenetwork.unodc.org/globenetwork/uploads/documents/GlobE%20Threema%20Brochure%20-%20A4%20version.pdf)

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.

In line with the response to question 7, the legal framework in Mauritius does not provide for the use of informally obtained information through international cooperation as evidence in court. Any information intended to be used in investigation has to be obtained through MLA.