

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.)

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>)

- 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:

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.

In order to provide effective and efficient assistance to requesting States Parties, the Central Authority for mutual legal assistance (“MLA”) requests in Singapore (“Central Authority”) leverages on a variety of electronic tools, including: (i) an electronic case management system for extradition and MLA requests; (ii) an electronic Singapore Government Directory (which allows case officers to conveniently identify the appropriate contact person from the relevant competent agencies; (iii) online access to Singapore and foreign legal resources; and (iv) newsfeeds on latest Singapore judgments and legal information. Apart from electronic tools, the case officers are also assisted in their work through a Knowledge Management database which contains a variety of manuals, checklists and precedents.

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 Central Authority has developed a custom-made software to assess whether the legal requirements of the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 2000 (“MACMA”), which is the governing legislation for MLA matters, are met. The software also generates relevant documents required under the MACMA. At present, there are no plans to make the software available to other States parties to the Convention.

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?

The electronic case management system (see question 2 above) keeps track of all extradition and MLA requests. Information such as (but not limited to) case details, due dates and turnaround times are recorded in the system. Statistics are then generated through the system to evaluate the effectiveness of using ICTs for international

cooperation in the fight against corruption. The outcomes of the evaluations were positive.

- 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?

The use of ICTs has streamlined work processes and improved the quality of incoming and outgoing requests, 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.

In 2016, the Central Authority published *The Practitioner's Guide for Asset Recovery in Singapore*. This guide, which is available online at <https://www.agc.gov.sg/docs/default-source/our-roles-documents/international-law-adviser/practitioner's-guide-for-asset-recovery-in-singapore---13-september-2016.pdf>, is a step-by-step guide specifically for States requesting assistance from Singapore in recovering assets that are the proceeds of crime, including offences under the Convention, complete with tools such as template request forms and checklists. Where MLA requests do not meet the legal requirements or the information is unclear, the case officers work with the requesting State Party to remedy these shortcomings. For complex cases (and where the requesting State Party finds it useful), the case officers make themselves available for consultations, whether via face-to-face meetings or video or telephone conferences.

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?

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?
- 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?
- 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.

Nil.

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