



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

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## Working Group on Asset Recovery

Vienna, 3-4 September 2015

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

### Overview of progress made in the implementation of asset recovery mandates

## *Digest of Asset Recovery Cases*

### Note by the Secretariat

1. The *Digest of Asset Recovery Cases* provides an analytical study, as requested by the Working Group on Asset Recovery of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Convention against Corruption devotes an entire chapter to the area of asset recovery, addressing the identification, freezing, seizure and confiscation of proceeds of corruption and the return of confiscated assets to the prior legitimate owner or to those victimized by corruption. The *Digest* provides factual examples and an analysis of how the mechanisms for asset recovery have been applied and how well they have functioned over past decades in actual cases around the world. It organizes the cases into thematic sections that follow the structure of the Convention against Corruption and conclude with a summary for policymakers and practitioners.

2. The *Digest* draws on desk research on cases and other information provided by Member States, as well as the publications of the joint United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)/World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative and cases in the StAR Initiative's Stolen Asset Recovery Watch database. UNODC organized an expert group meeting on 2 and 3 April 2012, where the structure and methodology of the *Digest* were discussed by 27 experts from 15 countries, representing all the United Nations regional groups, as well as from UNODC and the StAR Initiative.

3. The *Digest of Asset Recovery Cases* will be made available on the UNODC website.

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\* CAC/COSP/WG.2/2015/1.

