



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Reference: CU 2021/270(A)/DTA/CEB/CSS
(15th meeting of the open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery)

The secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption presents its compliments to the [...] and has the honour to cordially invite the Government to participate in the **fifteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery**, which will be held in a hybrid format (**in person and online**), in Vienna from **6 to 10 September 2021 in the M-Plenary, M-Building**.

The Working Group was established by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in its resolution 1/4, entitled “Establishment of an intergovernmental working group on asset recovery”. In its resolution 8/9, the Conference welcomed the outcome of the meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery, and requested the Working Group to develop a new multi-year workplan to continue its analytical work during the period 2020-2021, designating specific agenda items to be discussed as the main topics for each session.

In accordance with the workplan for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which was adopted by the Conference at its eighth session held in December 2019, the thematic focus of the fifteenth meeting of the Working Group will be on asset recovery and international cooperation (the provisional agenda is contained in the Annex).

Documentation including the annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work will be electronically available in all the official languages of the United Nations at the web pages of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and can be accessed through the following addresses:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-AssetRecovery/session15.html>
or <http://myconference.unov.org>

[...]

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In accordance with the workplan adopted in the fourteenth session of the Working Group (CAC/COSP/WG.2/2020/2), the thematic discussions in the fifteenth session will be dedicated to:

(a) The use by States parties of alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return, the factors that influence the differences between the amounts realized in such mechanisms and the amounts returned to affected States; and how such mechanisms could further promote the effective application of chapter V of the Convention; and

(b) Challenges, good practices and lessons learned, and procedures allowing the confiscation of proceeds of corruption without a criminal conviction from States parties that have implemented such measures in accordance with article 54. 1 (c) of the Convention.

The Government is hereby informed that **two** representatives per delegation will be able to attend the sessions in person in the M-Plenary. Representatives will also have a possibility to attend the sessions in an online format, using the Interprefy platform. The Government is advised that **up to five delegates participating remotely per delegation may be assigned a speaker role** on the Interprefy platform. It is no longer necessary to differentiate between speaker and observer roles. In determining the composition of the delegation, the Government is encouraged to also take into account considerations of gender balance.

The INDICO registration system will be used for registering delegates for participation. The registration for the session is open and accessible through the following link:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/corruption/registration/september-2021-uncac-meetings/index.html>

The Government is hereby informed that an official note verbale must be uploaded to the INDICO system, together with the mandatory details for each delegate (name, title, individual email address, in-person or online participation). Registration requests will be approved by the secretariat only after being cross-checked against the official note verbale uploaded to INDICO. The Government is kindly requested to share the note verbale with the nominated delegates to enable them to complete the registration process as soon as possible and not later than **30 August 2021** and to observe the deadline in order for the secretariat to finalize all the necessary technical preparations for the meeting. Regrettably, the secretariat will not be able to accommodate requests for registration after that date.

The fifteenth session of the Working Group on Asset Recovery, the resumed twelfth session of the Implementation Review Group and the tenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption are to hold **joint meetings** on thematic and technical assistance matters (Ref.: CU 2021/269(A)/DTA/CEB/CSS and CU 2021/271(A)/DTA/CEB/CSS). In view of the joint meetings and due to technical reasons, **the Government is requested to issue only one note verbale containing the composition of its delegation for the three meetings.** The registration for the joint meetings is set up as one event in INDICO.

In order to assist the work of the interpreters and to avoid technical problems, the Government is encouraged, to the degree possible, to ensure that the statements are delivered by the representatives present in the M-Plenary for those delegations that will participate in person. Delegations are also encouraged to provide copies of general national statements in written format (email to: uncac@un.org) for posting on a dedicated space on the website of the session (<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-AssetRecovery/session15.html>).

The secretariat will continue to monitor the situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic and will provide timely updates to registered participants and on the website of the session with respect to any necessary changes to the above arrangements and possible restrictions affecting access to the Vienna International Centre.

27 July 2021

Annex

Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Overview of progress made in the implementation of asset recovery mandates.
3. Practical aspects of asset recovery, including trends, challenges and good practices.
4. Thematic discussions:
 - (a) The use by States parties of alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return, the factors that influence the differences between the amounts realized in such mechanisms and the amounts returned to affected States and how such mechanisms could further promote the effective application of chapter V of the Convention;
 - (b) Challenges, good practices and lessons learned, and procedures allowing the confiscation of proceeds of corruption without a criminal conviction from States parties that have implemented such measures in accordance with article 54. 1 (c) of the Convention.
5. Technical assistance.
6. Adoption of the report.