



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Reference: CU 2022/303(A)/DTA/CEB/CSS
(16th meeting of the open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) presents its compliments to the [...] [...] and has the honour to cordially invite the Government to participate in the **sixteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery**, to be held in the **M-Plenary, M-Building**, Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria, from **7 to 11 November 2022**.

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 resolution 9/7, the Conference decided that the Working Group should, within its mandate, in collaboration with and without duplicating the work of other relevant international organizations, include in its workplan for the period 2022–2023 the topic of good practices and challenges with respect to beneficial ownership and how it can foster and enhance the effective recovery and return of proceeds of crime, taking into consideration article 63 of the Convention. In addition, in resolution 9/2, the Conference requested UNODC, in coordination with the StAR Initiative, to expand the global knowledge and data collection on asset recovery and return through gathering and sharing information on challenges and good practices, as well as on volumes of assets frozen, seized, confiscated and returned in relation to corruption offences, and the number and types of cases, as appropriate, while ensuring the protection of personal data and privacy rights, drawing upon existing efforts and within existing resources.

Accordingly, the thematic focus of the sixteenth meeting of the Working Group will be on (a) beneficial ownership information transparency, and (b) the collection of information on restrained and confiscated assets and its importance to facilitate and expedite asset return proceedings (the provisional agenda is contained in the Annex).

[...]

Making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism

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The proposed organization of work for the sixteenth meeting was prepared in line with the guidance contained in the workplan for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference, which was approved by the Bureau of the Conference, in order to enable consideration of agenda items 2 to 6 jointly with the Implementation Review Group and the open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

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 UNODC, and can be accessed through the following addresses:

[16th session Working group on asset recovery \(unodc.org\)](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/corruption/working_group_on_asset_recovery/)
or <http://myconference.unov.org>

Subject to developments relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, it is currently planned for the session to be held in person. While registered delegates will be able to observe the proceedings online through the Interprefy platform, there will be only very limited opportunities to deliver statements remotely. To facilitate the work of the interpreters, during each three-hour meeting, only 30 minutes will be allotted to statements delivered remotely by online participants. To avoid technical problems, the Government is encouraged, to the degree possible, to ensure that statements are delivered by the representatives present in the meeting room.

Arrangements have also been made to allow for pre-recorded video statements. Such pre-recorded video statements will not be counted towards the 30-minutes limit for online participation per meeting, but, in line with a decision by the President of the Conference, must be limited to three minutes to ensure that all delegations have an opportunity to contribute to the discussions. All pre-recorded video statements, including transcripts, should be submitted by Thursday, **27 October 2022**.

Delegations are also encouraged to provide copies of statements in written format for posting on a dedicated space on the website of the session and to adhere to the recommendations for the submission of pre-recorded statements available on the website of the meeting. Pre-recorded video statements (including transcripts) or written statements should be submitted via email to uncac@un.org and unov.conference@un.org, including a subject line in the following format “sixteenth meeting ARWG statement – [country name] [agenda item number]”.

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

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/corruption/registration/november-2022-uncac-meetings/>

The Government is hereby informed that an official note verbale must be uploaded in 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 in 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 October 2022 and to observe the deadline in order for the secretariat to finalize all the necessary technical preparations for the meeting. Regretfully, the secretariat will not be able to accommodate requests for registration after that date.

The sixteenth session of the Working Group on Asset Recovery, second resumed thirteenth session of the Implementation Review Group and eleventh 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 2022/302(A)/DTA/CEB/CSS and CU 2022/304(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.

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.

20 September 2022