Concept Note

Establishment of a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities

GlobE Network

updated 22 March 2021
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1 Setting the stage

Objective

Creation of a global network for the purpose of establishing and enhancing direct contact between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities, empowering a wider range of countries to engage in informal international cooperation, and complementing the other existing platforms for such cooperation.¹

Background

Corruption and complex money laundering-related cases generally require cooperation beyond domestic borders. The importance of quick responses to foreign requests for international cooperation in criminal matters is widely recognized by practitioners, and the importance of informal assistance that speeds up cooperation has been emphasized in numerous international agreements, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (Anti-Bribery Convention) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and regional anti-corruption conventions.

Article 48 of UNCAC requires that States parties cooperate closely with one another in their law enforcement activities, in pursuit of the common goal of effectively combating corruption and related offences, including the laundering of proceeds of corruption. Relevant measures include the establishment or enhancement of adequate channels of communication, cooperation in conducting inquiries, exchange of information concerning the means and methods used by offenders, facilitating effective coordination, and entering into agreements or arrangements on direct cooperation between law enforcement agencies.² Similar provisions can be found in other or regional instruments, i.e. OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the Council of Europe’s Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and the Arab Convention Against Corruption. Furthermore, article 49 of UNCAC encourages the establishment of joint investigations, as States parties shall consider concluding agreements or arrangements whereby, in relation to matters that are the subject of investigations, prosecutions or judicial proceedings in one or more States, the competent authorities concerned may establish joint investigative bodies. Moreover, article 48 of UNCAC provides that States parties may consider UNCAC as the legal basis for mutual law enforcement cooperation in respect of the offences covered by the Convention.

¹ This Concept Note has been updated to reflect new developments and accommodate inputs suggested by INTERPOL. In that context, we are grateful for the support to this initiative from our partners including INTERPOL, as reflected during G20 Anti-Corruption Ministers Meeting, G20 Anti-Corruption Ministers Meeting, Speeches and Remarks

² See also resolutions 3/3, 4/4, 5/3, and 8/1 of the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC.
As criminals operate internationally, successful anti-corruption efforts often depend on assistance from foreign jurisdictions, a process that is slowed and complicated by differences in legal traditions, laws and procedures, and varied capacities. Many practitioners immediately resort to drafting a mutual legal assistance (MLA) request when they determine that international cooperation is required. However, some important information and assistance can be obtained more quickly through informal channels. Informal assistance can lead to a more rapid identification of criminals and assets, confirm the assistance needed, and provide the proper foundation for an MLA request. Such requests that are coordinated among foreign anti-corruption or competent law enforcement authorities, in advance of submission to designated central authorities, stand better chances of being handled promptly and efficiently. Informal communication channels can also be used to share information proactively and spontaneously without a prior request, as emphasized in article 56 of UNCAC on “Special cooperation”. The first two boxes of the below graphic illustrate forms of assistance typically obtainable through informal assistance, which could be obtained through contacts established in the anti-corruption network.

The most common channels for informal assistance include counterpart practitioners, including counterpart police/law enforcement agencies, financial intelligence units (FIUs), regulatory authorities, and in-country legal advisors (or attachés). Contact with these entities is often accomplished through direct personal contact or through networks of which the agencies are members (e.g. the OECD Working Group on Bribery Network of Law Enforcement Officials (WGB LEO) and Global Law Enforcement Network against Transnational Bribery (GLEN), INTERPOL/Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery, Asset Recovery Inter-agency Networks (ARINs), Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, the World Bank Group’s International Corruption Hunters Alliance, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust)).

In such a context, it is of vital importance to link various anti-corruption law enforcement authorities from different countries, in order to promote effective international cooperation, including informal cooperation, in the fight against corruption.

**Added value and relevance**

A **Global Operational Network Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE)** will facilitate cooperation between anti-corruption agencies with a law enforcement mandate and will complement existing networks, including the INTERPOL/StAR Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery, ARINs such as the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-agency Network (CARIN), the OECD WGB biannual meetings of Law Enforcement Officials (LEO) and biennial meetings of the WGB Global Network of Law Enforcement Practitioners against Transnational Bribery, and the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

The anti-corruption network is not intended to replace existing channels but rather to offer an additional channel for anti-corruption law enforcement authorities which they may opt to choose depending on their case scenarios and pursuant to relevant domestic laws. The INTERPOL/StAR Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery focuses on assisting practitioners in overcoming operational barriers associated with criminal asset recovery, and the Egmont Group facilitates cooperation and intelligence sharing between national financial intelligence units. The OECD WGB
LEO and Global Network meetings focus on transnational bribery issues and bring together law enforcement officials (police and prosecutors) of the 44 Parties to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention who are directly involved in the investigation and prosecution of transnational bribery cases. Most existing channels, though effective on specific issues or in some regions, have certain legal, technical and geographical limitations. Moreover, many countries face issues of capacity, inadequate human, financial and technical resources, and barriers to existing networks.

In order to build on existing networks and at the same time to facilitate greater access for more countries, the proposed network aims to have a broader anti-corruption scope and to enhance cooperation between law enforcement anti-corruption entities (in line with article 36 of UNCAC), including the non-police model ones, and the competent law enforcement authorities, in criminal, civil or administrative corruption proceedings. Information obtained from States with regard to the implementation of article 36 of UNCAC in the course of the UNCAC Implementation Review process

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3 Article 36 of UNCAC requires States parties to ensure the existence of a body or bodies or persons specialized in combating corruption through law enforcement. The “State of implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption” prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) shows that most countries have opted for a single or central specialized anti-corruption agency, commission, bureau, directorate, department, office or task force operating either as an independent structure or within the institutional framework of the national ministry of justice, prosecutor general’s office or national police service. Other countries do not have separate, specialized anti-corruption agencies with a clearly defined role among their national institutions. Instead, they follow a more decentralized or individual approach. These countries have established special departments within the national public prosecution services, designated specialized public prosecutors in the country’s regions to investigate corruption-related cases, introduced specialized police units and investigators or economic crimes investigation structures on a regional level or set up specialized court divisions to hear cases involving corruption. A third group of countries follow a multi-agency approach, which vests responsibility for combating corruption in numerous independent agencies or law enforcement divisions scattered within various authorities or ministries (e.g., both the ministry of justice and the ministry of the interior), including in some cases agencies combating money-laundering that have law enforcement powers beyond those of a basic financial intelligence unit. [https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session7/V.17-04679_E-book.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session7/V.17-04679_E-book.pdf)

4 Article 43 of UNCAC
may be used as a useful guideline on relevant authorities that could join the network. Information obtained and gaps identified in the course of the review of articles 46 (mutual legal assistance), 48 (law enforcement cooperation), 49 (joint investigations) and 50 (special investigative techniques) of UNCAC could also provide important points of reference.

Besides regular meetings of the network for the purposes of exchange of information, discussion of cases and the building and strengthening of relationships with foreign counterparts, an online “one-stop hub” would provide network members with a platform to securely communicate and access up-to-date information relevant to anti-corruption law enforcement. In addition, the proposed network may assist participating authorities in understanding how to better utilize the existing channels/networks for international cooperation. To avoid any duplication of efforts and ensure the efficient use of existing resources, it is proposed that the anti-corruption network is developed in close consultation with the OECD Working Group on Bribery and LEO networks, INTERPOL, Eurojust, the Egmont Group, and the StAR Initiative to guarantee that the networks complement each other.

UNODC’s comparative advantage

UNODC is ideally placed to support the establishment of such a global network:

a. Given its mandate and its role as the guardian of UNCAC, UNODC is the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC and facilitates policy discussions on the international anti-corruption agenda and asset recovery;

b. It has privileged access to key anti-corruption stakeholders as the secretariat for the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism and has established a long-term productive work relationship with many States parties, has sound cooperation with relevant organizations and initiatives, and maintains a network of country offices and regional offices;

c. UNODC, especially through its joint partnership with the World Bank as part of the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, has extensive experience in: supporting similar networks and bringing practitioners together, including through organizing the Global Forum on Asset Recovery, Arab Forum on Asset Recovery and Ukraine Forum on Asset Recovery; strengthening international cooperation at global and regional levels; and providing a broad set of tailored technical assistance to States in the area of anti-corruption, international cooperation and asset recovery; and

d. It maintains several databases of UNCAC States parties’ anti-corruption law enforcement authorities, such as the “Directory of Competent National Authorities” (CNA directory) and the “Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge” (TRACK) portal, which includes a variety of tools developed to meet the growing demands of States in the area of anti-corruption and asset recovery.
Core Funding and Resources

GlobE was conceived under the “Riyadh Initiative towards the Creation of a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities” during the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)’s G20 presidency, and was welcomed by the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting held in Riyadh on 22 October 2020.

The core funding for setting up the network is provided by KSA, which ensures sustainable operation for the initial five years of the network. Further voluntary contributions for the effective operation of GlobE will ensure its longer-term sustainability. In addition, UNODC draws upon existing or ongoing initiatives in relation to various components (see below) under this project which are supported by other donors.

2 GlobE components

This proposal is dedicated to establishing a global network for the purpose of building and enhancing direct contact between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities, through the following three components:

Component 1: Vienna-based Global Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities
Component 2: Online one-stop hub for the network
Component 3: Knowledge and capacity development for the network

Component 1: Vienna-based Global Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities

Under this component, UNODC, in close cooperation with relevant partners, will organize regular annual meetings of GlobE (with possible ad hoc regional meetings if needed) that bring together anti-corruption law enforcement authorities. These meetings, though not directly linked to the subsidiary bodies within the UNCAC framework, may be informed by the discussions of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery and the Open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation under UNCAC, with a view to avoiding overlapped deliberations and enhancing synergies accordingly. The network meetings might in the future be organized back-to-back with these working groups, thus connecting anti-corruption policy and practice communities. However, these meetings are not confined to merely discussing international cooperation issues in relation to the implementation of UNCAC. The participating authorities will be able to set an agenda beyond the scope of UNCAC. Voluntary membership of the network will be open to all States parties to UNCAC and Member States of the United Nations. It is envisaged that the practitioners with relevant knowledge, capacity and
mandates in anti-corruption and law enforcement cooperation will participate in the planned meetings, potentially with virtual participation as necessary.

The meetings, which will generally be organized at UNODC’s headquarters in Vienna, and supported by INTERPOL, StAR, OECD, and Egmont Group as appropriate (including by providing subject matter expertise), are expected to generate two-fold outcome: On the one hand, they will be dedicated to sharing information, discussing specific cases, and building personal and institutional relationships, in particular for the benefit of developing countries. Experience shows that case-specific sessions at the margins of meetings and the establishment of direct communication with foreign counterparts during the meetings are very effective to promote bilateral informal cooperation. In order to promote the effectiveness of such case sessions, it is envisaged to allocate adequate resources to helping participating authorities prepare accordingly.

On the other hand, these meetings will be an opportunity to further strengthen international cooperation through the sharing of good practices, lessons learned, and available tools for the various stages of investigating corruption cases. Furthermore, these meetings may help participating authorities exchange views on how to better use the existing networks or to engage more in regular bilateral cooperation pertaining to their needs. A pertinent agenda can be set up by the participating countries on issues of common concern and interest. UNODC will use the existing infrastructure and meeting facilities of the United Nations in Vienna to service the opening meeting and, at the request of interested countries, set up and/or facilitate side/bilateral meetings, taking into account the confidentiality requirements of such meetings.

Component 2: Online one-stop hub for the network

To facilitate cooperation and communication among network members, exchange information, discuss cases and access information relevant to anti-corruption law enforcement, including legislation, case law and other databases and communication fora, an online platform will complement GlobE meetings. UNODC will provide technical and operational services on building an online one-stop hub for GlobE, which provides a secure communication channel and links together existing UNODC resources, such as the online directory of competent national authorities under UNCAC (CNA directory) or the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK portal) in one central new location.

One feature of the platform will be a “decision tree”, providing practitioners with a one-stop hub which compiles relevant information on existing networks and assists the requesting agency with finding the right foreign counterpart and choosing the optimal channel to establish contact, such as the Egmont Group for FIUs or the INTERPOL channel for police. The one-stop hub may also provide public contact details of specific authorities maintained by relevant international organizations and networks, such as the Egmont Group.

In practice, many anti-corruption authorities under article 36 of UNCAC do not have access to existing communication channels, due to the issue of operational independence raised by many “non-police” anti-corruption authorities. Furthermore, law enforcement authorities in many countries cannot exchange information with other non-law enforcement entities or law enforcement
authorities without sufficient justification. In addition, anti-corruption law enforcement covers broad mandates and often involves other cross-cutting issues, such as the laundering of proceeds of corruption, and may thus require the use of a specific channel for a specific purpose. For example, some financial intelligence units, having law enforcement powers, may prefer using the Egmont channel.

The one-stop hub aims to address the above limitations or fragmentation of the communication among anti-corruption law enforcement authorities by providing an additional communication channel and an array of options for communication for informal international cooperation, including providing contact details of law enforcement authorities to facilitate their direct exchange of intelligence through appropriate means. It offers a practical tool designed to finding tailored solutions in international cooperation for participating authorities pursuant to their domestic laws.

In 2019, UNODC has begun establishing an encrypted secure communication platform to facilitate direct communication between practitioners having accounts to the Directory of competent national authorities under UNCAC (CNA directory, see below for more information). This communication platform aims to support consultations among the central and competent authorities with a view to solving practical problems and addressing barriers in international cooperation. However, such consultations will be conducted in accordance with domestic laws or regulations in relation to law enforcement confidentiality and cooperation protocols. This platform will be integrated into the new one-stop hub and will complement the databases that contain other practical information (laws, contacts and resources) that practitioners need. The platform can be used to share information spontaneously and upon request. Funding for this platform has been provided by a donor, but to ensure its maintenance and increased functionalities over the coming years, further voluntary funding may be required.

Databases

The following databases will be integrated into or connected with the one-stop hub:

**Directory of competent national authorities under UNCAC**

The online directory of competent national authorities under UNCAC (CNA directory) allows easy access to the contact information of competent national authorities designated under the Convention.

The directory contains the contact information of authorities authorized to receive, respond to and process requests for:

- Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (Central Authority for Mutual Legal Assistance)
- Extradition (Central Authority for Extradition)

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5 The contact details pertaining to various authorities can be accessed at the Directory of competent national authorities under UNCAC (CNA directory).
6 The technical issues in managing information and data will be closely examined in the development phase.
- Asset Recovery (Asset Recovery Focal Point)
- Prevention of Corruption (Prevention Authority)
- Cooperation in the Use of Civil and Administrative Proceedings Relating to Corruption (Focal Point for International Cooperation in the Use of Civil and Administrative Proceedings)
- In line with objectives of this proposal, a new type of authority, namely law enforcement authorities focusing on anti-corruption issues, might be added to the CNA directory pursuant to Articles 36 and 48 of UNCAC and possible mandates. Details are under discussion.

The online directory is available to competent authorities and government agencies with a user account. Currently, the directory maintains over 500 anti-corruption authorities nominated by the UNCAC States parties. As of July 2020:

- 119 States provided information about their prevention authorities;
- 132 States provided information with regard to their central authorities for mutual legal assistance;
- 85 States shared information regarding their asset recovery focal points;
- 29 States designated their central authorities for extradition; and
- 34 States designated their focal points in the use of civil and administrative proceedings relating to corruption.

The CNA directory is located on the platform of “Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime” (SHERLOC portal). SHERLOC currently used to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the three Protocols and the international legal framework against terrorism, will be developed into a one-stop hub database covering all UNODC mandates in the future.

The consolidated CNA directory on the SHERLOC platform now lists over 1000 competent national authorities designated under:
(1) the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances,

(2) the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,

(3) the United Nations Convention against Corruption and

(4) other applicable legal instruments, such as Security Council resolution 2322 (2016), General Assembly resolution 68/186 and decisions 3/2 and 4/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Users, in particular anti-corruption practitioners, will be able to acquire all information on competent national authorities from SHERLOC and avoid the inconvenience of having to access such information through multiple platforms.

Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK)

UNODC runs a web-based anti-corruption portal known as TRACK (Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge). The portal features the UNCAC Legal Library, an electronic database of legislation and jurisprudence relevant to UNCAC from over 175 States systematized in accordance with the requirements of the Convention. The TRACK portal brings together legal and non-legal knowledge on anti-corruption and asset recovery, enabling Member States, the anti-corruption community and the general public to access this information in a central location. Information in the Legal Library is searchable by country, by UNCAC article and other criteria such as legal systems and levels of human development. An anti-corruption learning platform is also incorporated, providing a common space where analytical tools generated by partner organizations can be searched and accessed by users worldwide.

A further key objective of TRACK is to create a community of practice where registered users can communicate, exchange information and schedule events. The common workspace is intended for partner institutions, anti-corruption practitioners and experts to communicate and collaborate directly with each other. In line with efforts to enhance synergies among international anti-corruption monitoring bodies, as called for in particular in Conference Resolution 7/4, this database could be further enhanced with contributions from other multilateral organizations such as the Council of Europe’s Group of States against Corruption, the Organization of American States, the African Union, the League of Arab States and the OECD. Currently, data contained in the TRACK database are being migrated to the SHERLOC platform.\(^7\)

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\(^7\) At present TRACK’s partner organizations include the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Council of Europe’s Group of States against Corruption, the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, the Basel Institute on Governance, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, the United Nations Development Programme, the
Communication platforms

The proposed online one-stop hub is envisaged to provide links to the following communication platforms, and provide guidance on choosing the optimal channel to establish contact with a foreign counterpart:

**INTERPOL/StAR Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery**

The Global Focal Points Network on Asset Recovery was launched in January 2009 by INTERPOL and the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative. It provides a secure information exchange platform for the recovery of criminal assets. Authorized representatives from each member country are designated as focal points and can respond quickly when another country requires assistance. Through INTERPOL secure communication systems (INTERPOL’s I-24/7, Security Communication Platform and Global Knowledge Hub, these last two were launched in 2020), registered asset recovery focal points can access information including contact details of other focal points and thus use a secure capability for anti-corruption cooperation. This password-protected, encrypted channel facilitates the exchange of sensitive data and contributes to the success of investigations.

**OECD Networks**

Parties to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention have established several networks of anti-corruption law enforcement practitioners, supported by the OECD Secretariat, to exchange common challenges and good practices, and to develop informal contacts among this community, which has proved very useful to effective international cooperation. These OECD networks of law enforcement officials are mutually supportive and reinforcing, and contribute efficiently to enhancing international cooperation between law-enforcement practitioners and strengthening their capacities to fight complex cross-border corruption.

**Other relevant regional operational and liaison networks**

Other networks include the Asset Recovery Inter-agency Networks that provide practitioners in the field of asset confiscation and recovery an opportunity to address challenges in international cooperation; the Egmont Group which is a global operational organization of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) that provides a platform for the member FIUs to securely exchange operational financial intelligence; the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC) that brings together specialist law enforcement officers from multiple agencies around the world to tackle allegations of grand corruption; and other relevant networks and forums, such as various judicial cooperation

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United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the UNODC/World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative and the United Nations Global Compact.

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8 The Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network (CARIN), The Asset Recovery Interagency Network for Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP); The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for the Caribbean (ARINCARIB); The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for East Africa (ARIN-EA); The Asset Recovery Inter Agency Network for Southern Africa (ARINSA); The Asset Recovery Inter- Agency Network for West Africa (ARIN-WA), The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network-West and Central Asia (ARIN-WCA); The Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN); and the Red de Recuperación de Activos de GAFILAT (RRAG).
networks supported by UNODC, the World Bank Group’s International Corruption Hunters Alliance, Europol and Eurojust.\(^9\)

**Complementarity of platforms**

The aim of the new platform is not to duplicate, but to complement existing channels and databases by providing an additional channel for those authorities that typically do not have access to other channels and thus do not yet have a secure channel to communicate with foreign counterparts. States use divergent approaches in designating their anti-corruption law enforcement authorities: while some have a single or specialized anti-corruption law enforcement agency or commission, others vest such power in different authorities, offices or departments. In practice, several authorities, in particular the independent anti-corruption commissions, may not have direct access to certain channels and encounter significant difficulties in cooperating with their foreign counterparts. The one-stop hub can reinforce the use of existing channels by anti-corruption authorities, which usually, given their mandate, have no direct access to the INTERPOL channel. In this context, the new communication platform attached to the CNA directory, in addition to the ARIN networks, the Egmont channel and INTERPOL’s channels may play an important role in facilitating relevant cooperation.

**Component 3: Knowledge and capacity development for the network**

Under this component, based on information compiled and lessons learned at the network’s meetings, UNODC in collaboration with StAR will develop policy papers, guidebooks, and fact-based analysis and proposals on strategies and methods to advance the fight against corruption and related crimes such as money-laundering, facilitate asset recovery, and foster direct international cooperation between anticorruption law enforcement authorities. These products would complement tools already developed by UNODC, StAR, and other organizations such as the OECD and Egmont Group. Furthermore, UNODC will organize trainings and strengthen capacity of anti-corruption law enforcement personnel, in particular from developing countries, to engage in international cooperation, including through stronger bilateral communication, and to better use existing tools. UNODC will also assist participating countries in establishing/improving national toolkits for international cooperation, such as by providing technical assistance on strengthening legislation, policies or institutional arrangements, or on the development of domestic guidelines on, inter alia, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery. In addition, GlobE will provide services in terms of the development of legal and technical publications, tools and trainings dedicated to various areas of international cooperation, tailored to the needs of the network.

To date, UNODC and StAR have developed a broad range of publications, manuals, handbooks and training materials, including the Manual on Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition, Manual on International Cooperation for the Purposes of Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime, Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool (MLA Tool), Asset Recovery Digest, Asset Recovery Handbook, Barriers to Asset Recovery, and A Good Practice Guide for Non-conviction-based Asset Forfeiture. StAR has also facilitated development of asset recovery guides and beneficial ownership guides and has been involved in collecting information on grand corruption and asset recovery cases (Asset Recovery Watch Database). StAR has also developed in cooperation with the OECD a study on challenges and good practices in relation to MLA in transnational bribery cases. These initiatives will be used as a basis for the development of future publications and tools and for collection of data.

Under this component, UNODC will work closely and coordinate with relevant networks/initiatives/organizations, such as INTERPOL, StAR, OECD and Egmont Group, on a regular basis to avoid any duplication and enhance synergies, including inviting these stakeholders to share their publications, project reports, case studies, and red-flag indicators, etc. Where relevant, knowledge products and trainings could be developed in cooperation with other international organizations based on their expertise (e.g. with OECD concerning criminalization and enforcement of the foreign bribery offence).

### 3 Next steps and work plan

GlobE is envisaged to be officially launched at the UNGASS to be held in June 2021 in New York, while the first meeting of the Network will be held in Vienna tentatively in September 2021. Preparations started in the last quarter of 2020. UNODC has developed a roadmap to roll out the network, including establishment of the secretariat, organization of various meetings and briefings as well as development of the secure communication platform, in consultation with Member States.

To facilitate the preparatory process, UNODC organized and held in an online format from 3 to 4 March 2021 a first Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE). The meeting brought together over 130 technical experts from 53 Member States from all five Regional Groups of the United Nations and 21 international organizations and entities (including OECD, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, Egmont Group, CARIN and various other ARINs) in addition to a number of individual experts. The overall aim of the EGM was to help UNODC formulate forward-looking, practical proposals and chart out the next steps for the establishment of GlobE network. The participating experts discussed the architecture and operational procedures of this network, shared experiences and lessons learned arising from managing or engaging with similar networks for international cooperation, discussed ways to ensure synergies with other existing networks, and identified concrete end-users’ needs for the secure communication platform envisaged to be developed under this network (see component 2 above).

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The meeting also discussed the relevance of establishing three Interim Task Forces to assist and provide technical guidance during the establishment process of GlobE, namely:

1. **ITF 1 on Set-up and Operation of GlobE** - to discuss membership, nomination, governance and other operational issues;

2. **ITF 2 on Synergies with other Existing Networks** - to discuss the complementarity and synergies between GlobE and other relevant operational and liaison networks; and

3. **ITF 3 on Tools and Services of GlobE** - to discuss architecture of the One-stop hub, the development of the secure communication platform, the services and tools to support the needs for knowledge and capacity development.

GlobE’s workplan builds on existing elements which were described under the three components. The new elements which complement the existing ones will be developed and implemented in a phased approach.

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<tr>
<th>Component 1</th>
<th>Vienna-based Global Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Set up and management of the Global Network</td>
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<td>• Organization of meetings, including invitations, setting the agenda as appropriate and logistical arrangements;</td>
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<td>• Provision of secretariat services to the meetings; and</td>
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<td>• Liaising and coordinating with other international law enforcement networks, in particular the OECD, Egmont Group, and INTERPOL/STAR networks of law enforcement practitioners, to avoid duplication of work and enhance synergies, and to consider the relevance and feasibility of joint meetings.</td>
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<th>Component 2</th>
<th>Online one-stop hub for the network</th>
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<td>• Research and collection of experiences and good practices of similar online one-stop hubs;</td>
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<td>• Development of the online one-stop hub for the global network, including establishment and maintenance of a community of practitioners for participating anti-corruption law enforcement authorities;</td>
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<td>• Development and maintenance of various databases and communication platforms; in coordination, where appropriate, with other international organizations; and</td>
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<td>• Promoting the use of the online one-stop hub.</td>
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<th>Component 3</th>
<th>Knowledge and capacity development for the network</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Identification of relevant needs for the knowledge products and capacity building;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Development of policy papers, guidebooks, publications and training tools, and collection of data;</td>
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<td>• Arrange trainings to strengthen participants’ capacity to engage in international cooperation; and</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Dissemination of relevant knowledge products.</td>
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