Report

Meeting of Experts on the Establishment of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities

GlobE Network

3 - 4 March 2021 (online format)
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Overview

One of the main purposes of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (the Convention) is to promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and the fight against corruption, including in asset recovery. The Conference of the States Parties to the Convention has repeatedly called for enhanced measures to further promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, and has requested UNODC to provide, in its programs of technical assistance, measures to enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation, including in relation to offences covered by the Convention, before seeking mutual legal assistance.

Improving international cooperation in the area of anti-corruption has also been a priority for the Anti-Corruption Working Group of the G20. In 2020, the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting, inter alia, welcomed the “Riyadh Initiative towards the Creation of a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities”. As the guardian of the Convention, UNODC is supporting the establishment of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) to facilitate informal cooperation among anti-corruption law enforcement entities.

The GlobE Network’s membership will be open to all Member States of the United Nations and all parties to the Convention. The Network will aim to enhance direct contact between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities, empower a wider range of countries to engage in international cooperation, and complement other existing platforms that enable such cooperation.

To facilitate the preparatory process, UNODC organized and held on 3–4 March 2021 a virtual meeting of experts on the Establishment of the GlobE Network. The meeting brought together over 130 technical experts and participants from 53 States from the five Regional Groups of the United Nations (Angola; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belgium; Brazil; Bulgaria; Canada; China; Cuba; Ecuador; Egypt; France; Germany; India; Indonesia; Italy; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kyrgyz Republic; Lithuania; Malaysia; Mali; Mauritius; Morocco; Netherlands; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Norway; Paraguay; Peru; Qatar; Romania; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saudi Arabia; Singapore; South Africa; South Sudan; Spain; Sri Lanka; State of Palestine; Sudan; Switzerland; Thailand; Togo; Turkey; Uganda; United Kingdom; United States; and Venezuela) and 21 international organizations and entities (APEC Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies; ARINSA; ARIN-WA; ARIN-WCA; Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB); Basel Institute on Governance-International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR); CARIN; Egmont Group; Eurojust; European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO); Europol; FATF; GAFILAT-RRAG; International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities; International Association of Prosecutors; INTERPOL; OECD; Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI); StAR Initiative; UNODC; and World Bank), in addition to a number of independent renowned experts.

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.

Key emerging points from the meeting were: the necessity for the GlobE Network to be an inclusive Network owned by its members, the necessity of establishing a strong permanent secretariat for the Network that would include a help desk to address specific questions and provide guidance to members, the need to involve practitioners in the operations of the GlobE Network, the need to ensure cooperation and synergy between the GlobE Network and existing networks, and the need for user-friendly communication platform that draws on current technological advances and is regularly updated. Importantly, the meeting also generated the proposal to establish three interim taskforces to provide technical guidance for the establishment and operation of the Network, namely: 1) Interim taskforce on membership, architecture and operational procedures of the Network; 2) Interim taskforce on synergies between the GlobE Network and other relevant operational and liaison networks; and 3) Interim taskforce on the tools and services of the GlobE Network.

Opening session

In her opening address, Ms. Brigitte Strobel-Shaw, Chief of the UNODC Corruption and Economic Crime Branch (CEB), noted that while progress had been made in implementation of the Convention, many States parties had justified concerns about the status of international cooperation in anti-corruption efforts, and were looking for solutions to challenges experienced, including burdensome and slow processes. There was a need to collectively build stronger partnerships and to change the culture of international cooperation. UNODC is supporting the establishment of the GlobE Network with pride and enthusiasm and the meeting was an opportunity to obtain expert input on key aspects.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Nasser Abaalkhail, Assistant to the President for International Collaboration, Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (NAZAHA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, shared valuable background and context on the Riyadh Initiative. The Saudi G20 Presidency in collaboration with the UNODC conducted an analysis of cross-border anti-corruption cooperation and found insufficient and ineffective utilization of informal communication networks. Amongst the gaps identified, there were 100 countries that were not members of or participated in any network that facilitates informal cooperation between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities. The Riyadh Initiative proposed that such a global network should meet the following criteria:

1. Be under the umbrella of the United Nations so that all Member States can join on an equal footing;
2. Be based on a convention and address all offences covered by the UNCAC;
3. Complement and synergize with other existing regional or thematic networks;
4. Use a dedicated secure communication platform to facilitate informal cooperation between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities to complement other available secure communication channels; and
5. Be supported by capacity building programmes and knowledge products to close current capacity gaps.

The second keynote speaker, Professor Elizabeth David-Barrett from the University of Sussex, spoke about the importance of international cooperation, and the insights that academia could offer to help design the GlobE Network. Academic research had also shown that while great progress had been made in terms of anti-corruption legislation, there still was an implementation gap, especially when it came to international cooperation. A network for informal cooperation among law enforcement officers would serve the following purposes:

1. Create engagement and easy working relationships among officials;
2. Can be effective, not only for individual investigations but can also have transformational benefits; and
3. Building trust to enhance cooperation, noting that institutions can be important tools to build trust.

She concluded that it was important to consider who would be invited to the table – senior managers or more operational officials or both – and that it was crucial to carefully consider the design of the Network.

Mr. Shervin Majlessi, Chief of the Conference Support Section of UNODC CEB, explained that the GlobE Network was to be launched at a Special Event in the side-lines of the special session of the UN General Assembly against Corruption (UNGASS) in June 2021 and that it had three intended components:

1. A Vienna based Global Network of Law Enforcement Agencies;
2. An online one stop hub; and
3. Capacity building and knowledge creation.

He indicated that the objectives of the meeting of experts were to:

1. Present the Initiative and the next steps in the development of the GlobE Network;
2. Identify important questions on the architecture and operational procedures of the GlobE Network;
3. Explore end-users needs for different components of the GlobE Network;
4. Discuss synergies and share experiences and lessons learned arising from managing or engaging with similar networks for international cooperation.

In the ensuing discussion, many experts welcomed the establishment of the GlobE Network and expressed their readiness to cooperate with the Network. Several participants asked questions on various aspects of the GlobE Network, such as the scope of the one-stop hub for information exchange, its management and the scope of information to be shared and provided by the parties. Questions were also raised on how this Initiative would differ from other existing networks, and how...
challenges identified in the course of their work were planned to be resolved in the proposed Network.

**Session 1: Modalities: Membership, architecture and operational procedures of the Network**

The moderator, Mr. Alan Bacarese, Director of Investigations, Strategy and Operations, Integrity (INT) Vice Presidency, World Bank Group, highlighted that the sharing of information for investigation between law enforcement agencies remains a big difficulty in the investigation of corruption cases and invited the commentators and experts to share their experience in this session.

The moderator invited the meeting to focus on the following four aspects:

1. Who should be invited to join the GlobE Network and what type of agency(ies) in particular, bearing in mind the different anti-corruption mandates assigned to multiple agencies?
2. What should be the criteria for joining the GlobE Network?
3. How many agencies of a country should be allowed to join the GlobE Network?
4. What experience can be shared relevant to the governance structure of the GlobE Network?

**Commentators**

Mr. Jean-François Bohnert, Chief Public Prosecutor, Head of the National Financial Prosecution Office (PNF), France, shared his experience in cross-border investigations involving the use of mutual legal assistance requests (MLAs). He observed that agency-to-agency collaboration had to be strengthened through different channels, including by sharing intelligence via a suitable platform.

Based on his experience with the European Judicial Network in Criminal Matters, Mr. Bohnert indicated that bilateral and multilateral cooperation brought judicial authorities together and facilitated “Judicial Diplomacy”. The value-added of this Network would be enabling the anti-corruption authorities to work together, to know each other, and to meet and address worldwide counterparts. He underlined the importance of direct access to counterparts who are able to help and give advice in an efficient manner. It was of utmost importance for a global network to focus on criminal cases and operational matters. Within the GlobE Network, specialized authorities should be allowed direct access to each other. Mr. Bohnert concluded by stating: “We need more judicial diplomacy. As practitioners, we dream of a network like the GlobE Network.”

Ms. Hermione Cronje, Head, Investigating Directorate, National Investigating Directorate, South Africa, shared her experience from the perspective of a requesting State seeking mutual legal assistance. One of the difficulties was the bureaucracy and formal procedures involved with processing requests for mutual legal assistance, and efforts under certain circumstances to block independent authorities from international cooperation. Efforts were being made in South Africa to promote inter-departmental communications and to streamline the processing procedures. Ms. Cronje stated: “We are a global community and we need to get better at working together“.
Summary of comments from the floor

1. **Who should be invited to join the GlobE Network and what type of agency(ies) in particular?**

   One participant considered that the GlobE Network should focus on anti-corruption agencies and practitioners and stated that the “Benefit of the network depends on the quality of practitioners in the network”. Another participant stressed the need to have practitioners not policy makers involved and suggested not to limit the scope of the GlobE Network to law enforcement officials, but rather to apply the logic of functional equivalence to include investigators and prosecutors in addition to non-governmental organizations who had the relevant practical experience and expertise. Most speakers agreed that, although it depends on the functionality and scope of the Network and designation by Member States, the Network should include specialized authorities that are directly engaged in the investigation and prosecution of corruption offences envisaged under the Convention. Direct involvement of those authorities (direct contact) was highlighted as a precondition for the success of the Network as many were concerned that participation of an intermediary or policy-making authorities would only hinder the effectiveness of practical cooperation sought by this Network.

   Several participants highlighted that it is important for the GlobE Network to provide the focal points with direct access to counterparts as requests for assistance can then be dealt with more expeditiously and effectively. It was suggested that one of the focuses of the GlobE Network should be to enable peer-to-peer learning with foreign counterparts who can provide one another with the insights and information to facilitate anti-corruption work. One speaker shared the experience of developing the CARIN network and highlighted the importance of creating an interim task force as well as the need to identify the correct persons to be members of the Network. She advised that creating a network owned by the members is the best way forward and will allow contribution from all members. She concluded with emphasizing the importance of synergy.

2. **What should be the criteria for joining the GlobE Network?**

   Most speakers highlighted that the criteria for the participating anti-corruption authorities and their representatives in the activities of the GlobE Network must be determined clearly to ensure the practicability and efficiency of the Network’s operation.

   One participant stressed that there is a need to set a strict description of the functions of the agencies to be included in the Network, as well as its representatives, preferably with specific qualifications, to ensure the right persons are joining the GlobE Network. An authorization to attend the meeting should also be provided to the representatives to ensure effectiveness and confidentiality. Another participant emphasized the benefit of a network usually depends on the quality of the practitioners in the room and what the practitioners bring to the table. The best people to work with are the practitioners who deal with the real problem every day. Several participants agreed that practitioners, rather than policy makers, should be in the room.
3. How many agencies of a country should be allowed to join the GlobE Network?

Speakers generally agreed that two to three law enforcement agencies per country should be allowed to join the GlobE Network. This would balance inclusive engagement with the difficulties of too many agencies per country. A number of participants stressed the importance of the GlobE Network facilitating peer to peer direct contact (for example, police to police, FIU to FIU, prosecutor to prosecutor), hence the usefulness of having several law enforcement agencies involved.

4. What experience can be shared relevant to the governance structure of the GlobE Network?

Several participants stressed that for the Network to be successful, it had to be owned by its members. Mutual trust and respect for each other was also seen as essential. Several speakers mentioned the necessity of establishing a strong secretariat for the operation of the Network that enables and facilitates communication among its participants and communicates well with its members. Another participant referred to the need of a mechanism that could address specific questions of countries and provide guidance. One participant noted that it is important that the members of the GlobE Network are given some opportunity to determine how the Network should operate and evolve further.

A participant from OECD indicated that the subsidiary law enforcement network under the OECD Working Group on Bribery (WGB) reported only to high-level management on discussions on the investigation of foreign bribery. Those sitting at other policy-making bodies under the WGB did not attend the discussion of the law enforcement network.

Several participants noted that the GlobE Network should provide a link to central authorities for the purposes of official mutual legal assistance, particularly to the authorities nominated under UNCAC and UNTOC. One participant mentioned that it would be important to take into accounts different regional priorities in the process of setting up the Network.

The necessity to determine the common language of the Network was raised. While it was highlighted that INTERPOL used a variety of UN languages, the most recently established European Prosecutor’s Office has decided to use English as the sole working language. It was also mentioned by one participant that not everyone is comfortable in English and that perhaps translators (or translation software solutions) could be considered.
Session 2: Synergies: The GlobE Network and other relevant operational and liaison networks

The moderator, Mr. Drago Kos, Chair, OECD Working Group on Bribery, highlighted the importance of the meeting and stressed cooperation between Law Enforcement Agencies, including sharing of evidence, still remained problematic. The GlobE Network would provide an opportunity for new achievements and action. He stressed the importance of discussing what issues the GlobE Network should seek to avoid based on the experience of existing networks and proposed to establish an interim task force on the above-mentioned issues.

The moderator invited the meeting to focus on the following three questions:

1. What are the existing networks that have relevance to the proposed work of the GlobE Network?
2. What would be the area where the GlobE Network should put more emphasis on to complement other networks?
3. What pitfalls should be avoided in the process?

Commentators

Mr. Navin Beekarry, Director-General, Independent Commission Against Corruption, Mauritius, shared his experience on how several existing networks on anti-money laundering (AML) and anti-corruption, including the OECD Global Law Enforcement Network and UK-IACCC (International Anti-Corruption Centre – National Crime Agency) facilitated international cooperation. He highlighted the importance the GlobE Network for anti-corruption authorities with law enforcement mandates and supported creating an interim task force to conduct a deeper analysis.

Ms. Laure du Castillon, Expert-Magistrate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium, welcomed the GlobE Network Initiative. Acknowledging the lack of operational coordination at the global level, she stated: “We need more cooperation at the operational level”. Ms. du Castillon referred to two levels of synergy: avoiding duplication and improving synergy with existing networks. She stressed that although it was good to have information, “too much information kills relevant information”. Whilst the information sought depended on the type and stage of the investigation, the key to success was getting the right information on time. She also drew attention to ensuring the sustainability of the GlobE Network and getting support from and providing assistance to all potential members. It was necessary to decide what kind of information should be there, what are the modalities of exchange, and what is the degree of security and confidentiality of shared information. Enhancing cooperation and understanding between existing networks, increasing synergy between existing organisations are important – the EU networks offer a successful example.

Ms. Gretta Fenner, Managing Director, Basel Institute on Governance, International Centre for Asset Recovery, stressed the importance of avoiding unnecessary competition among networks. The GlobE Network should address the challenges on both sides of cooperation and put an end to the “blame game” where both requesting and requested countries blame each other for ineffective cooperation. A clear engagement protocol was needed. She also mentioned UNGASS and debates
about forward looking institutional setups and that it would be important to synergize the GlobE Network with UNGASS outcomes.

**Summary of comments from the floor:**

In the ensuing discussion, participants highlighted the World Bank/UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (STAR) and U4 publications on regional and international networks, which could be useful sources in the establishment process of the GlobE Network, and that it was important to reach out and support small regional networks and help bridge rotating chairs as these networks do not have permanent secretariats. Moral and political support could be offered to investigators and prosecutors who were having a hard time due to their professional activity. As an example, the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) offered formal and informal facilities for prosecutors.

One participant from Europol noted that Europol recently established the European Financial and Economic Crime Centre (EFECC) to boost the support of financial and economic crime investigations and intelligence exchange in EU Member States. Within this centre a specific focus has been giving also to fight corruption through a dedicated team providing analysis and support to Europol Member States and third countries who signed agreements with Europol. A network of anti-corruption law enforcement experts from the Member States exchange operational information through a secure application platform (SIENA) as the official channel for information sharing in addition to an informal online platform of experts (EPE). The Europol platform of experts (EPE) covered more than fifty crime areas, including two on corruption with participation from over one hundred countries. The online platform is accessible not only to practitioners, but also to other interested parties, experts both from the public and private institutions. It also allowed for updating of the list of experts.

Another participant indicated that based on his experience of working with CARIN, it was important to have an opportunity to reach out to his counterparts when needed as this led to great results. He noted that the GlobE Network’s location at the UNODC could be key to its success as this allows good opportunity to collaborate with the other EGMs and Working Groups on the issues of anti-corruption. It would create a chance for practitioners to discuss their practical issues as some platforms are overloaded with discussions of a political or policy nature.

One speaker shared China’s experience on the fight against corruption and highlighted the importance of the level and effectiveness of cooperation and that maintaining informal and formal contact and cooperation played key roles.

The International Association of Prosecutors was cited as a good example of successful international cooperation that enabled exchange of operational information in investigations and Eurojust as a good example allowing focal points to contact their counterparts in Member States and resolve issues of cooperation.

Placing international liaison officers was noted as a valuable tool to exchange information and request intelligence information and that mutual trust and respect enabled successful cooperation in the Network. One participant observed that the GlobE Network could through multilateral meetings help domestic authorities locate the right counterparts internationally to cooperate with and build contacts for necessary cooperation.
Several participants shared their experience of the development and the collaboration on different networks, including the OECD Global Law Enforcement Network, IACCC, Eurojust, Europol and CARIN. One speaker referred to the successful aspects of the Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR).

Most speakers agreed that the GlobE Network could be a valuable tool for international co-operation and that it needed to avoid duplication of existing networks and seek to synergize with, support co-ordination and supplement these networks. Existing networks must be included in the establishment and functioning of the GlobE Network, and an interim task force on the issues identified during the session, including on the synergy between the existing networks on asset recovery and anti-corruption, should be established.

Session 3: The Network in action: Tools and services

The moderator, Ms. Marcella van Berkel, Manager of the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN) Secretariat, provided an overview of the communication platforms used by the CARIN network for exchange of operational information between its members and other services provided by the CARIN Secretariat in facilitating communication with other ARIN type bodies. She requested experts to focus on discussing the architecture of the one-stop-hub envisaged under the GlobE Network, including the scope of information sought to be exchanged through the complementary secure communication platform, and relevant needs for knowledge and capacity development.

Commentators

Mr. Humaid Alameemi, Acting Head of the Anti-Corruption Unit of INTERPOL, provided information on the secure collaboration platform used by the INTERPOL−STAR Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery. He indicated that both operational and non-operational information could be exchanged through this platform but two separate domains were in place to ensure their respective secure transmission. He also introduced the capacity building programmes offered in operational support and coordination upon request of the Member States, as well as intelligence analysis.

Ms. Alejandra Perez, Technical Expert of the Asset Recovery Network of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT), shed light on the electronic communication platform located in the financial intelligence unit of Costa Rica used by the Network. She explained how the electronic platform had been utilized to facilitate exchange of information and ensured security of relevant requests and responses. She highlighted the functionalities of the electronic platform and its practical advantage of avoiding delay in the transmission of requests for information and assistance between designated contact points.

In her presentation, Ms. Min Wang, Inspector of International Cooperation Department of the National Commission of Supervision of China, noted the necessity of maintaining up-to-date contact information of focal points in the one-stop-hub, given the diverse structure of the
competent authorities performing anti-corruption functions. She also highlighted the need of a multi-functional character of the secure communication platform with the possibility of instant messaging, phone calls and video conferences. On knowledge products, she suggested the inclusion of papers and reports analysing, for example, the trends and features of transnational corruption cases and different anti-corruption mechanisms. She also looked forward to tailor-made training on asset recovery and anti-money laundering to be offered by the GlobE Network.

Ms. Eduarda Rodrigues, Director of National Services for Asset Recovery, the Attorney General’s Office of Angola, highlighted the importance of informal cooperation by referring to her experience on asset recovery in Angola. In her view, it was desirable if the one-stop-hub of the GlobE Network could provide practical guidelines to facilitate international cooperation and maintain information of focal points and working language of States. She also underlined the importance of trust, shared by other participants, within the GlobE Network for the effective and efficient bilateral and multilateral law enforcement cooperation.

Ms. Xolisile Khanyile, Vice-Chair of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, expressed her support to the GlobE Network and provided a brief introduction on the Egmont Secure Website (ESW) used to facilitate sharing of information among member financial intelligence units, in particular the encryption which enables and ensures a secure transmission of intelligence within the platform.

Summary of comments from the floor

During the ensuing discussions, experts elaborated on the following issues:

1. **Architecture of the one-stop-hub, in particular the secure communication platform**

One speaker highlighted the importance of a secure channel of communication within the GlobE Network. She observed that contact points regularly change, and therefore information on the authorities and focal points involved in the Network must be kept up to date. She emphasized the importance to make sure communication reaches the appropriate counterpart but not anyone else. In this regard, one expert shared the experience of Eurojust where a central directory was maintained and kept updated so that the platform user can have access to the most up-to-date contact information for communication purpose. A similar practice was also adopted by CARIN and supported by another participant. Another participant stressed that the one-stop-hub should allow direct communication with foreign counterparts whose timely advice could be sought in response to outgoing requests for legal assistance. Another speaker considered that users of the secure communication platform should not be restricted from using only that platform, but rather to provide them with the ability to link with other available secure communication platforms, such as those provided by INTERPOL, CARIN, ARIN and other networks. Users could therefore choose the platform for their communications with counterparts as appropriate. Another participant suggested that, depending on the type of information to be shared, there could be both a secure and unsecure communication channel to facilitate information sharing. He advised that the one-stop-hub should be user-friendly, functional, practical, easily accessible and kept updated. One participant expressed hope that the GlobE Network would also improve mutual legal assistance (MLA) capacities. The
online one-stop hub, knowledge products and capacity-building were mentioned as key to improve capacities that countries lack.

2. **Scope of the information to be shared**

One participant suggested leaving open the options of the type and scope of information to be shared through the proposed secure communication platform under the one-stop-hub. He considered that the one-stop-hub could possibly serve as a repository of information and best practices including on trends and investigation strategies. The participant from the Egmont Group confirmed that once the details of the scope of information sharing within the GlobE Network are decided, they would be pleased to share information on the case typologies from their database.

**Closing session**

H.E. Ambassador Eric Anderson Machado, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations (Vienna), highlighted that the UN General Assembly resolution 73/191 convening the Special Session against corruption, specifically provided that the Session in June 2021 should address measures to strengthen international cooperation. Improving international cooperation was high on the agenda of the diplomatic community in Vienna. The GlobE Network Initiative was therefore both timely and important. A global network that facilitated direct and informal cooperation between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities would be valuable. Sound progress had been made in obtaining inputs of international experts on this Initiative through this meeting of experts. From the level of enthusiasm and support that emerged during the discussions, the GlobE Network was generally viewed by participants as a promising tool that could truly enhance international anti-corruption cooperation. In order to ensure the success of this Initiative, sufficient engagement and support by the global community as well as national authorities were indeed indispensable. All participants were encouraged to remain involved and lend their expertise to the establishment of the GlobE Network so that, hopefully, at the upcoming General Assembly Special Session against corruption it would be concluded that this was a watershed moment and authorities across the globe started cooperating and exchanging information in a smoother and more effective manner.

In his closing, Mr. Shervin Majlessi from UNODC highlighted the following main takeaways from the discussions:

First, on the composition and design of the Network, the GlobE Network will obviously be an inclusive Network that is open to all UN member states and the States parties to UNCAC. It is important to carefully consider, though, what entities will be eligible to take part in the Network. There seems to be a general feeling among the participants of the meeting of experts that the Network should in any event aim to promote direct access and peer-to-peer communications among law enforcement practitioners. Not only for actual assistance, but also to seek advice and guidance aimed at more effective cooperation. Moreover, the Network should provide a link to central authorities for the purposes of official mutual legal assistance. The need for a strong secretariat that can effectively communicate to its members, facilitate collaboration among its members and that would include a help desk to address specific questions and provide guidance to members was also highlighted.
Second, there was widespread agreement that the new GlobE Network and the already existing networks should seek to avoid duplication and competition, but instead should aim to complement one another and create synergies. Some great examples of how existing networks are valuable tools in the fight against corruption were mentioned, and many participants also expressed the view that the value of the GlobE Network can be tremendous – if we get it right and provided that Member States take ownership of the Network. Several proposals were also made on how the GlobE Network might fill gaps and add value, drawing on its global reach and its links with UNODC.

Third, on the tools and services that can be provided under the Network, there was interest in a repository of useful tools, and more details have to be fleshed out in relation to an accessible and user-friendly communication platform that draws on current technological advances and is regularly updated.

And finally, there was the important component of knowledge development and capacity building, in order to ensure that authorities of all States will be in a position to fully benefit from such a network and engage effectively and efficiently with their counterparts.

It was noted that the GlobE Network had already proved useful as UNODC had received several requests to facilitate contacts between a number of countries as a result of this EGM. UNODC will update its roadmap for the establishment of the GlobE Network taking into account the input from the EGM.

As a next step, and based on the proposals from experts, three interim taskforces will be established to provide technical guidance on each component of the GlobE Network, in preparation for the launch in June 2021 at a Special Event in the side-lines of the upcoming UNGASS, namely: 1) Interim taskforce on membership, architecture and operational procedures of the Network; 2) Interim taskforce on synergies between the GlobE Network and other relevant operational and liaison networks; and 3) Interim taskforce on the tools and services of the GlobE Network.
Annex

Agenda of the Meeting of Experts on the Establishment of a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network)

3-4 March 2021 (online format)

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<td>Crime Branch, UNODC</td>
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<td><em>(a) Importance of the Initiative</em></td>
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<td>Dr. Nasser Abaalkhail, Assistant to the President for International</td>
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<td>Dr. Elizabeth David-Barrett, Professor, University of Sussex</td>
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<td>*(b) background and description of the Initiative, and objectives</td>
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<td><strong>Speaker:</strong> Mr. Shervin Majlessi, Chief, Conference Support</td>
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<td>Section, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC</td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Mr. Alan Bacarese, Director of Investigations,</td>
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<td>Mr. Jean-François Bohnert, Chief Public Prosecutor, Head of the</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>Session 2: Synergies: The GlobE Network and other relevant operational and liaison networks</td>
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<td>12:00 – 13:30</td>
<td>Moderator: Mr. Drago Kos, Chair, OECD Working Group on Bribery</td>
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<td>Commentators:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Navin Beekarry, Director-General, Independent Commission Against Corruption, Mauritius</td>
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<td>Ms. Laure du Castillon, Expert-Magistrate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium</td>
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<td>Ms. Gretta Fenner, Managing Director, Basel Institute on Governance, International Centre for Asset Recovery</td>
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<td>13:30 – 14:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>14:00 – 15:15</td>
<td>Session 3: The Network in action: tools and services</td>
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<td>Moderator: Ms. Marcella van Berkel, Manager, Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN) Secretariat</td>
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<td>Commentators:</td>
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<td>Mr. Humaid Alameemi, Acting Head, Anti-Corruption Unit, INTERPOL</td>
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<td>Ms. Min Wang, Inspector, International Cooperation Department, National Commission of Supervision, China</td>
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<td>Ms. Eduarda Rodrigues, Director, National Services for Asset Recovery, Attorney General’s Office, Angola</td>
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<td>Ms. Xolisile Khanyile, Vice-Chair, Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units</td>
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<td>15:15 – 15:30</td>
<td>Closing: Concluding remarks and the way forward</td>
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<td>Speakers:</td>
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<td>H.E. Ambassador Eric Anderson Machado, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations (Vienna)</td>
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<td>Mr. Shervin Majlessi, Chief, Conference Support Section, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC</td>
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