Initial Concept for the One-Stop Hub

The One-Stop Hub (OSH) is envisaged to facilitate cooperation and communication among the GlobE Network members by assisting them in identifying secure channels for exchanging information and discussing cases and in accessing information relevant to anti-corruption law enforcement, including legislation, case law and other databases and communication fora. UNODC will provide technical and operational services on building and maintaining the OSH which is intended to serve as the main terminal for tools and resources held by UNODC and will provide information regarding other international organizations and networks. It is also contemplated that the OSH is expected to feature a Secure Communication Platform and a Decision Tree. The former is intended to facilitate exchange of operational information among practitioners in relation to the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases, while the latter seeks to assist the requesting authority with identifying the competent foreign counterpart and choosing the optimal channel to establish contact for international cooperation.

The first session of the Interim Task Force 3 on Tools and Services under the GlobE Network was held to collect specific customer needs and requirements of the OSH. The meeting had a productive discussion on the following matters:

1. Structure and content

ITF3 experts observed that the OSH could maintain technical and procedural information regarding various databases administered by UNODC and other international organizations and networks, the Secure Communication Platform, the Decision Tree, and possibly a community of practitioners, while respecting confidentiality of investigations as well as data protection laws of participating jurisdictions.

The databases may include: (1) UNODC resources, such as the online directory of competent national authorities under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CNA directory), Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK knowledge portal), Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC knowledge portal), etc. (2) Databases and knowledge resources of other international organizations and networks. It is subject to further consultation with the secretariates of these organizations and networks regarding the information that can be made available through the OSH. In addition, consideration can be given to the suggestion of some experts that an online community of practitioners could facilitate peer-to-peer learning and discussion on issues or topics of common interest. Guidelines for use of the OSH by the community need to be developed and this forum would be monitored to avoid publication of sensitive or confidential information.

1 The SHERLOC portal is an initiative to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the three Protocols thereto and the international legal framework against terrorism.
2. Access

Certain ITF3 experts suggested that the OSH should be made publicly available with restricted areas accessible to authorized users with appropriate credentials. Information contained on the OSH could be divided into public information and restricted information, while operational communications could be temporarily preserved only until accessed by the appropriately credentialed member with authority to access that communication.

(1) Public information and open databases would be made available to the general public, e.g. academia and civil society organizations. Public information consists of published knowledge products as well as a wiki-like structure to allow articles on anything that can be publicly contained under the GlobE Network. This would also include the possibility of country profile pages which contain public information as well as restricted information that can only be accessed by a validated GlobE user.

(2) Restricted information, such as the contact details of focal points in the CNA directory and the Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders in the SHERLOC portal, should be made accessible to public officials, in particular anti-corruption law enforcement practitioners from the GlobE Network members. Decisions will be taken later as to what information needs to be tagged and catalogued as restricted and will require a validated GlobE user to access, in consultation with relevant international organizations and networks.

(3) Operational messages transmitted through the Secure Communication Platform should only be accessible by focal points designated by the GlobE Network members (please refer to the Initial Concept for the Secure Communication Platform for more details).

3. Technical requirements of the Decision Tree

In general, the Decision Tree is viewed as supporting both a public and a private area. The public area would include information maintained by public knowledge portals, such as open source information and strategic information for practitioners. The private area would be available only to practitioners who require assistance for international cooperation related to specific cases. It is envisaged that users, depending on their concrete requests, will be channeled through the Decision Tree to the most appropriate networks. In this sense, UNODC needs to identify, in consultation and cooperation with relevant international organizations and networks, how such interaction between GlobE users and other network members can be maintained. However, some experts highlighted that the access to the entire Decision Tree should be restricted to the anti-corruption law enforcement practitioners, as criminals may take advantage of this tool to learn how international cooperation in investigation and prosecution of corruption cases is conducted.

For more details, please refer to the annex-Initial Structure of the Decision Tree, which is a joint output of both ITF2 on Synergies with Other Networks and ITF3 on Tools and Services of the GlobE Network.

Annex

Initial Structure of the Decision Tree