

International Cooperation in Criminal Matters and Networks Meeting to Establish a Judicial Cooperation Network for the Great Lakes Region

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Benefits of networks

- Facilitate direct contacts between dedicated focal points
 - resulting in better communication and cooperation to overcome obstacles to MLA and Extradition
- Platform to enhance skills & knowledge by training, exchange of information & good practices; identification of gaps in laws and practice; development and dissemination of tools.
 - resulting in more effective and efficient processes and more successful requests leading to more successful prosecutions.

Numerous Mandates

- **CCPCJ Resolution 19/7**
- **COP Resolutions 5/8 and 6/1**
- **GA Resolution 69/193 of 08/12/14**
- **Bamako Declaration 12/2011 (West Africa)**

Networks

Common attributes and modus operandi

- TOR or Charter
- Linked to relevant regional organizations and crime strategies
- Secretariat or body to manage the network
- Support the exchange of information, good practices and legislation and harmonization of procedures
- Facilitate cooperation with other networks
- Support strengthening and establishment of Central Authorities

Common modus operandi

- Dedicated Focal points
- Network website
- Secure communication channels
- Network plenary meetings (at least 1X per year)
- Facilitate operational cooperation
- Training for practitioners



WACAP

West African Network of Central Authorities
and Prosecutors against Organized Crime

CASC

Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit
and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime
in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus

- **WACAP:** West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors
- **CASC:** Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus

-  Benin
-  Burkina Faso
-  Cabo Verde
-  Cote D'Ivoire
-  Gambia
-  Ghana
-  Guinea Bissau
-  Guinea
-  Liberia
-  Mali
-  Mauritania
-  Niger
-  Nigeria
-  Senegal
-  Sierra Leone
-  Togo



WACAP
 West African Network of Central Authorities
 and Prosecutors against Organized Crime



- Network of focal points of 15 ECOWAS countries plus Mauritania
- Outcome of the Bamako Declaration on Impunity, Justice and Human Rights, 2011.
- Implemented in cooperation with ECOWAS
- Launched in May 2013.

WACAP

- Charter, signed by Ministers and it has Regulations, that can be amended. But these formalities are
- Allows other networks and stakeholders to participate.
- Network for practitioners by practitioners

WACAPNET.ORG



WACAP
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- Niger
- Nigeria
- Senegal



5th joint meeting in Nigeria 5-8 Oct 2015

The joint meeting of the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP), the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa (ARINWA) and the Sahel Platform for Judicial Cooperation was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 5 to 8 October 2015. The Master of Ceremony, Mr Pius ... [Read More »](#)



4th WACAP Plenary and Ministerial Meeting: 23-26 March 2015, Ghana

"Transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking continue, at present day, to threaten the security, the rule of law, the democracy and the development of many regions of the world," asserted Mr Pierre Lapaque, Regional Representative of UNODC for



WACAP Newsletter

WACAP Newsletter #2, Sept-Dec 2015



WACAP
West African Network of Central Authorities
and Prosecutors against Organized Crime

In this newsletter:

- The WACAP, the Inter-Agency Network on Asset Recovery in West Africa (ARINWA) and Sahel Platform on Judicial Cooperation joint meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, 5-8 October 2015
- The effective Central Authorities and International Cooperation, by Jeffrey M. Olson, Department of Justice, USA
- Overview of trainings in 2015 in Western Africa and upcoming Train the Trainer Programme
- Contribution of WACAP focal points: Niger
- Brazil training offer



Activities

Plenary meetings organized to facilitate direct contacts between Central Authorities and dedicated focal points and facilitate cooperation in ongoing investigations and prosecutions (1 -2 time per year)

National, Sub-Regional and Inter-Regional training delivered to improve skills and knowledge and to share experiences/good practices

Tools are developed and disseminated

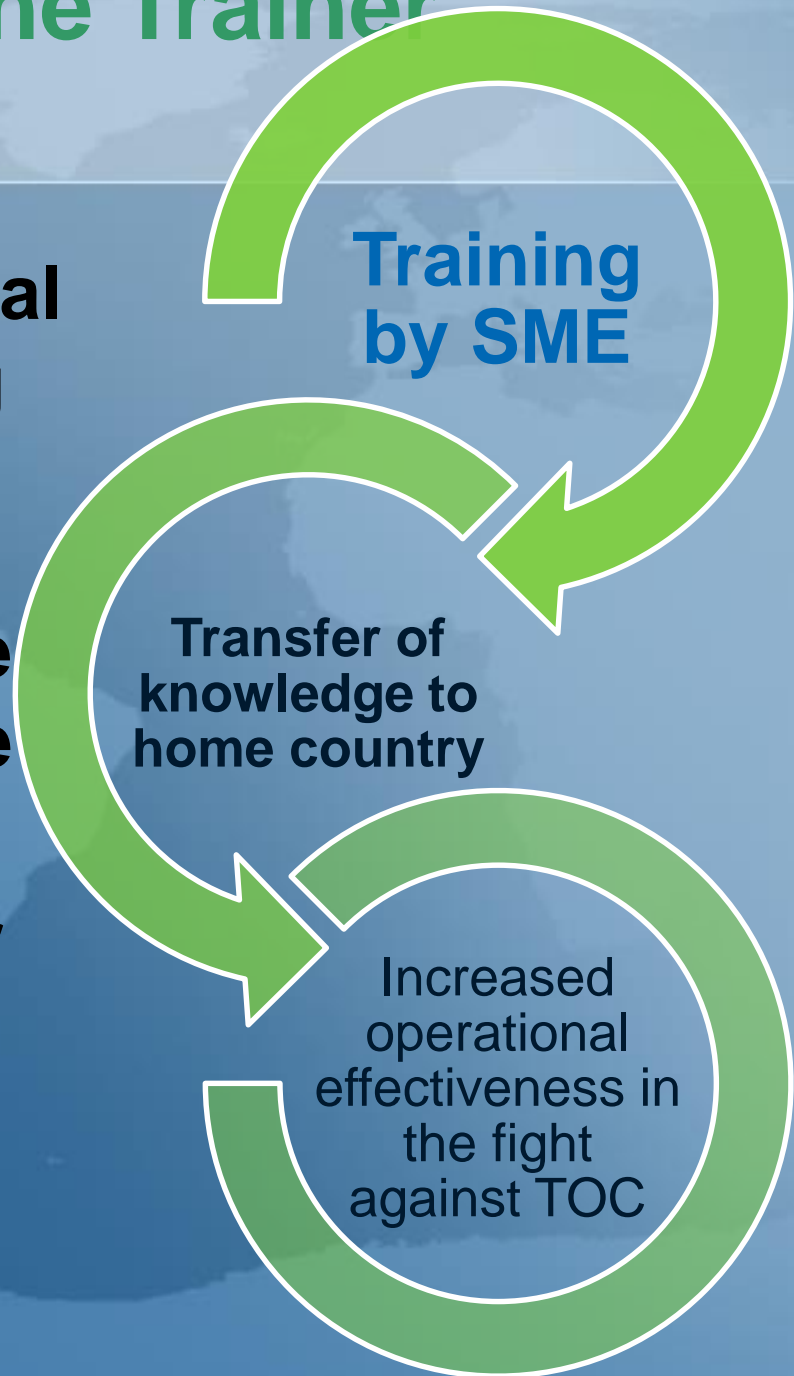
Gaps in laws and practices identified

Provide assistance to **establish and strengthen Central Authorities**

Train the Trainer

TOT on international legal assistance and teaching methodology. It includes training on extradition, MLA and the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool.

It facilitates the transfer knowledge of international legal assistance to peers.



International cooperation tools

- **MLA Request Writer Tool**
- **Guides on MLA, Asset Confiscation and Transfer of Sentenced Persons and Best Practice guides**
- **Basic tips for investigators and prosecutors for requesting electronic/digital data/evidence from foreign jurisdictions**
http://www.unodc.org/documents/legal-tools/Tip_electronic_evidence_final_Eng_logo.pdf

International cooperation tools

- **Online directory of competent national authorities accessed through the SHERLOC data base**
- **Train the trainer programme on international cooperation**

Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool:

- Provides guidance to practitioners through each step of the drafting process of a mutual legal assistance request.
- The advantage offered by the tool is that the necessary information is saved in order to generate, at the final stage, the draft request in a format ready for signature and submission.
- A practical guide for practitioners from developing countries which could accelerate the submission of MLA requests; and
- As a means to generate a format of requests that could be accepted by counterparts in developed countries acting as requested States.

Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool

- Available in different languages:
- The tool will be an **HTML-based stand-alone simple application** capable of running on all devices (including tablets and mobiles).
- The MLA Request Writer Tool will continue to be made available *free of charge* and be downloaded from the website of UNODC (<http://unodc.org/mla>)
- Streamlining the structure/content to avoid overlaps between parts of the Tool relating to “traditional” types of MLA and parts on asset recovery pertaining to this type of assistance *per se*.
- Additional forms/types of assistance:
 - ✓ Joint investigations;
 - ✓ Videoconferencing
 - ✓ Transfer of criminal proceedings
 - ✓ Separate digital evidence module (with four types of assistance)
 - ✓ Controlled delivery.

Impact, Impact, Impact!

- Focal points report a greater efficiency in handling incoming and outgoing requests for MLA and extradition
- Action taken upon informal request before the formal request is received to speed up the process
- First requests made to countries (French to English speaking) & long-standing obstacles settled due to trust/contacts
- Cooperation in on-going cases is facilitated
- Institutionalizing the central authority
- Identification of national coordination issues

SHaring Electronic Resources and Laws On Crime

<http://sherloc.unodc.org>



**SHaring Electronic Resources and
Laws On Crime**

The SHERLOC portal is an initiative to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the **UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime** and its three Protocols.



Case Law Database

A comprehensive case law database that allows you to see how Member States are tackling organized crime cases in their courts.



Database of Legislation

An electronic repository of laws relevant to the requirements of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. Most of the legislation included in this database has been enacted specifically to counter the relevant crime type. For more information click [here](#).



CNA Directory

Directory of competent national authorities that have been designated to receive, respond and process requests pertaining to mutual legal assistance, extradition and transfer of sentenced prisoners, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in firearms.



Bibliographic Database

An annotated bibliography providing a synopsis of key articles that are search-able by countries, research methods and keywords. The database is under development and currently includes research on migrant smuggling.

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CNA Directory

- Fully integrated into SHERLOC
- UNTOC and 1988 Drug Convention
- Competent national authorities for:
 - Mutual legal assistance
 - Extradition
 - Transfer of sentenced persons
 - Smuggling of migrants
 - Trafficking in firearms
 - Trafficking in cultural property
 - Illicit traffic by sea of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Directory of Competent National Authorities

under Articles 6, 7 and 17 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and Competent National Authorities under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Répertoire des autorités nationales compétentes

au titre des articles 6, 7 et 17 de la Convention des Nations Unies contre le trafic illicite de stupéfiants et de substances psychotropes de 1988 et des autorités nationales compétentes au titre de la Convention des Nations Unies contre la criminalité transnationale organisée

Directorio de autoridades nacionales competentes

en virtud de los artículos 6, 7 y 17 de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas contra el Tráfico Ilícito de Estupefacientes y Sustancias Sicotrópicas de 1988 y autoridades nacionales competentes en virtud de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas contra la Delincuencia Organizada Transnacional

2015/1



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Thank you for your attention

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