



# International Partnerships on Asset Recovery

## Overview and Global Directory of Networks

# Introduction

Despite efforts to crack down on illicit financial flows, money laundering and corruption, millions of dollars are funneled out of developing countries every year and stashed away in financial centers. The theft of those resources undermines economic growth and denies public services to those who need them most.

Countries around the world face legal constraints when dealing with stolen assets—especially developing countries that lack the resources needed to match the skills and creativity of criminals. The magnitude of the problem suggests that a more efficient approach is needed to recover looted funds. In the past 15 years, only \$5 billion, a fraction of the entire amount of stolen assets, has been returned to the countries of origin. Asset recovery specialists in most developing countries would benefit from training and additional contact with international financial centers and other jurisdictions where the fortunes are often amassed. The ability to exchange information and cooperate effectively would empower them to efficiently trace, seize and confiscate proceeds of crime.

The issue of asset recovery has gained further prominence since the early 2000s with the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). UNCAC in particular has a chapter dedicated to asset recovery, as well as the emergence of asset recovery networks. By helping countries to establish systems to obtain information on the source, destination and ultimate beneficiary of proceeds of crime and corruption, asset recovery networks aim to help asset recovery specialists around the world to fight against corruption and money laundering.

This directory first examines possible strategies for international cooperation and the distinction between formal mutual legal assistance (MLA) requests and informal assistance. Second, the directory lists the asset recovery networks, along with information about their structure and operations, to help asset recovery specialists access the appropriate networks and cooperate on their crucial efforts to pursue the forfeiture of criminal proceeds.

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**StAR**—the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative—is a partnership between the World Bank Group and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) that supports international efforts to end safe havens for corrupt funds. StAR works with developing countries and financial centers to prevent the laundering of the proceeds of corruption and to facilitate more systematic and timely return of stolen assets.

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The information in this guidebook was updated January 29, 2019 (version 2). The international partnerships and asset recovery networks included frequently add new members. StAR will update this document from time to time, but interested parties may wish to double check the latest membership with the networks themselves as needed.

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# International Cooperation: MLA Requests and Informal Assistance<sup>1</sup>

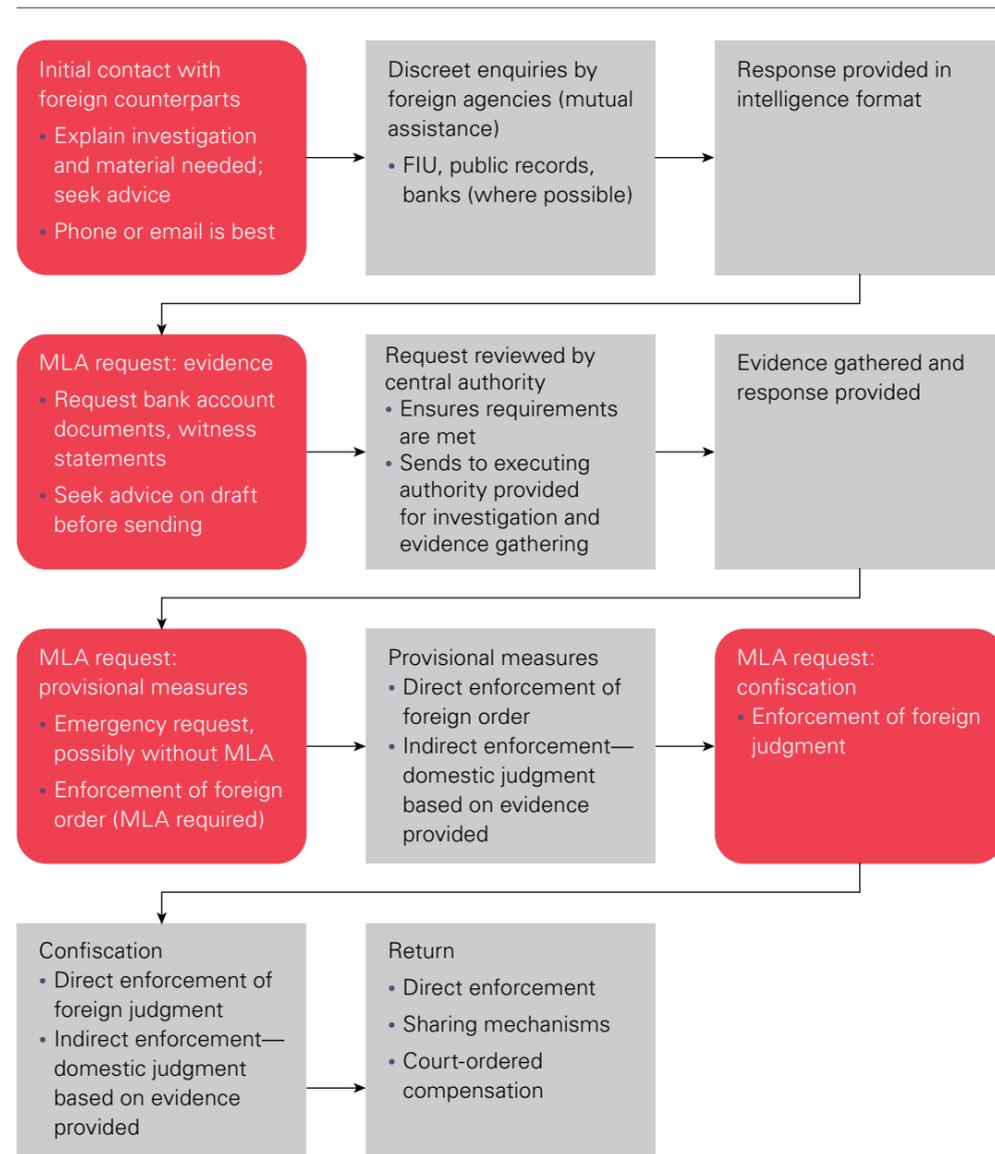
Corruption cases and complex money laundering cases generally require asset recovery efforts beyond domestic borders. While illicit funds can be moved abroad quickly—often with the click of a button on a laptop or a cell phone—asset tracing and recovery by law enforcement officials and prosecutors can take months or years. Successful tracing and recovery efforts often depend on assistance from foreign jurisdictions, a process that is slowed and complicated by differences in legal traditions, law and procedures, languages, time zones, and varied capacities. In this context, international cooperation is essential for the successful recovery of assets stashed abroad, and practitioners could benefit from international cooperation efforts during each phase of a case.

Many practitioners immediately resort to drafting an MLA request when they determine that international cooperation is required; however, some important information can be obtained more quickly through informal channels.<sup>2</sup> Informal assistance can lead

1. Excerpt from: Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), *Asset Recovery Handbook: A Guide for Practitioners* (2011), see pages 121-137, available at: <https://star.worldbank.org/star/publication/asset-recovery-handbook>

2. Types of information that can be shared informally varies by State.

**Figure 1. Flow Chart of International Cooperation**



Note: FIU = financial intelligence unit. In some jurisdictions, evidence and provisional measures can be requested at the same time.

to a more rapid identification of assets, confirm the assistance needed, and provide the proper foundation for an MLA request.

MLA is a formal process by which jurisdictions seek and provide assistance in gathering information, intelligence, and evidence for investigations; in implementing provisional measures; and in enforcing foreign orders and judgments. An MLA request is typically submitted in writing and must adhere to specified procedures, protocols, and conditions set out in multilateral or bilateral agreements or domestic legislation. During the investigation, these requests generally refer to evidence, provisional measures, or the use of certain investigative techniques (such as the power to compel production of bank account documents, obtain search and seizure orders, take formal witness statements, and serve documents). An MLA request is generally required for the enforcement of confiscation orders.

Informal assistance typically consists of any official support rendered outside the context of MLA requests. Although “informal” in comparison to an MLA request, the concept is often still authorized in MLA legislation and involves formal authorities. The importance of informal assistance has also been emphasized in numerous international agreements.

In contrast to MLA requests, the information gathered through informal assistance is not typically admissible

**Figure 2. Differences between Informal Assistance and MLA Requests**

FACTOR	INFORMAL ASSISTANCE	MLA REQUESTS
<b>Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain <i>intelligence</i> and <i>information</i> to assist investigation</li> <li>Emergency provisional measures in some jurisdictions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain <i>evidence</i> for use in criminal trial and confiscation (in some cases, non-conviction based [NCB] confiscation)</li> <li>Enforcement of restraint order or confiscation judgment</li> </ul>
<b>Type of Assistance</b>	Noncoercive investigative measures; proactive disclosure of information; joint investigation; opening of a foreign case	Coercive investigative measures (such as search orders) and other forms of judicial assistance (such as enforcement of provisional measures or confiscation judgment)
<b>Contact Process</b>	Direct: law enforcement, prosecutor, or investigating magistrate directly to counterpart, among Financial Intelligence Units, between banking and securities regulators	Generally not direct: central authorities in each jurisdiction to proper contact point (law enforcement, magistrate, prosecutor, or judge)*; letters rogatory through the ministry of foreign affairs
<b>Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usually just agency-to-agency contact; sometimes a memorandum of understanding</li> <li>Must be lawfully gathered in both jurisdictions</li> </ul>	May include dual criminality, reciprocity, specialty, ongoing criminal investigation, or link between assets and offense
<b>Advantages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information is obtained quickly; formality of an MLA request is not required (for example, dual criminality)</li> <li>Useful for verifying facts and obtaining background information to improve an MLA request</li> </ul>	Evidence is admissible in court; enables enforcement of orders
<b>Limitations</b>	Information cannot always be used as evidence; difficult to determine contacts; few resources allocated to networking; potential leaks	Time consuming; resource intensive; many requirements that are often difficult to meet; potential leaks

\* There may be bilateral or multilateral agreements that permit direct contact among practitioners.

**Figure 3. Informal Assistance and Formal MLA Requests—What Can Be Requested?**

Investigative Assistance (Noncoercive)	Other	Investigative Assistance (Coercive) and Evidence for Trial	Provisional Measures	Confiscation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspicious transactions and activity reports</li> <li>• Public records or registry information (vehicle, corporate, land)</li> <li>• Consent search</li> <li>• Visual surveillance</li> <li>• Witness interview*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request opening of foreign case (if jurisdiction)</li> <li>• Joint investigation*</li> <li>• Spontaneous disclosure</li> <li>• Emergency provisional measures**</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified documents</li> <li>• Protection order</li> <li>• Search and seizure warrant</li> <li>• Account monitoring order</li> <li>• Sworn testimony and witness interviews*</li> <li>• Joint investigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct enforcement of foreign restraint or seizure order</li> <li>• Indirect enforcement through domestic restraint or seizure order</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct enforcement of foreign confiscation order</li> <li>• Indirect enforcement through domestic order of confiscation</li> </ul>
Generally obtained through informal assistance		Generally requires formal MLA request		

\* Either informal assistance or formal MLA request (or both), depending on the jurisdiction.  
 \*\*May not require formal MLA request for the initial order, but will require one to retain the order.

in court (though it can be).<sup>3</sup> Typically, it is more like intelligence or background information that can be used to develop the investigation and may lead to an MLA request. This process may occur over the telephone between counterparts, through administrative cooperation, or through face-to-face meetings. It may incorporate noncoercive investigative measures, such as gathering publicly available information and information from law enforcement databases, conducting visual surveillance, or obtaining information from financial intelligence units; it may extend to spontaneous

disclosures of information, conduct of joint investigations, or request for authorities in another jurisdiction to open a case. What can be requested through informal assistance versus what must be requested through the MLA process may differ based on jurisdiction, and often times the information obtained informally should be confirmed and formalized via MLA request down the line.

The most common channels for informal assistance include counterpart practitioners, financial intelligence units, and regulatory authorities. Contact with these entities is often accomplished through direct personal contact or through networks

to which the agencies are members. We have compiled a list of these networks to assist practitioners in accessing the appropriate network, thereby facilitating the process of informal assistance.

3. Information shared from law enforcement databases, for example, can be admissible in court.

**GUIDELINES FOR EFFICIENT RECOVERY OF STOLEN ASSETS**

English العربية Français Español

HOME GUIDELINES LAUSANNE PROCESS COSP

The Practical Guidelines are a set of international good practices intended to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of requesting and requested states in the asset recovery process.

**What are the guidelines?**

Asset recovery is an intricate and time-consuming process. The Guidelines for the Efficient Recovery of Stolen Assets unravel the asset recovery process, breaking it down into practical, manageable guidelines, allowing a targeted audience to focus on the asset recovery process in a comprehensive manner.

The Guidelines are accompanied by a non-binding step-by-step approach. They both intend to assist practitioners, policymakers and legislators to better plan each step of the process. The breakdown into guidelines and step-by-steps enable viewing the asset recovery process outside its traditional thematic streams: (i) intelligence and pre-investigation activities; (ii) investigation; (iii) prosecution and adjudication; and (iv) confiscation and restitution. Other subsets which are of core importance to the asset recovery process, e.g., communication strategies, trust building and expectation management are also included.

The guidelines and step-by-steps relate as an interactive checklist of elements to consider when establishing an asset recovery policy or when devising an investigation strategy.

**Who are they for?**

- **Practitioners** (e.g., intelligence officers, law enforcement and judicial authorities) can in the short-term gain knowledge and perspectives into the asset recovery process, resulting in medium- to long-term enhanced capacities for both originating and receiving jurisdictions to recover stolen assets.
- **Policymakers** will have a better understanding of the asset recovery process in a manner that will allow them to propose targeted policies potentially resulting in a meaningful impact.
- **Legislators** will be able to address legal challenges posed by and within the asset recovery process and propose, where applicable, legislative solutions for their jurisdictions to recover stolen assets, while ensuring observance of fundamental, constitutional and human rights of the parties involved in the asset recovery process.

Additionally, the Practical Guidelines website may also reach to a wider audience, including:

- **General public.** The website can act as a medium for knowledge in the asset recovery process, giving them an understanding of the intricacies of the asset recovery process, ultimately assisting in expectation management.
- **Academia** will be able to perceive in more detail and through different angles the

**Online tool: The Guidelines for the Efficient Recovery of Stolen Assets**

The *Guidelines for the Efficient Recovery of Stolen Assets* publication unravels the asset recovery process, breaking it down into practical, manageable guidelines.

The *Guidelines* are accompanied by a non-binding step-by-step approach. Both guides intend to assist practitioners, policymakers and legislators to better plan each step of the process. The breakdown into guidelines and step-by-step instructions enables one to view the asset recovery process outside its traditional thematic streams: (i) intelligence and pre-investigation activities; (ii) investigation; (iii) prosecution and adjudication; and (iv) confiscation and restitution. Other subjects of core importance to the asset recovery process (e.g., communication strategies, trust building and expectation management) are also included.

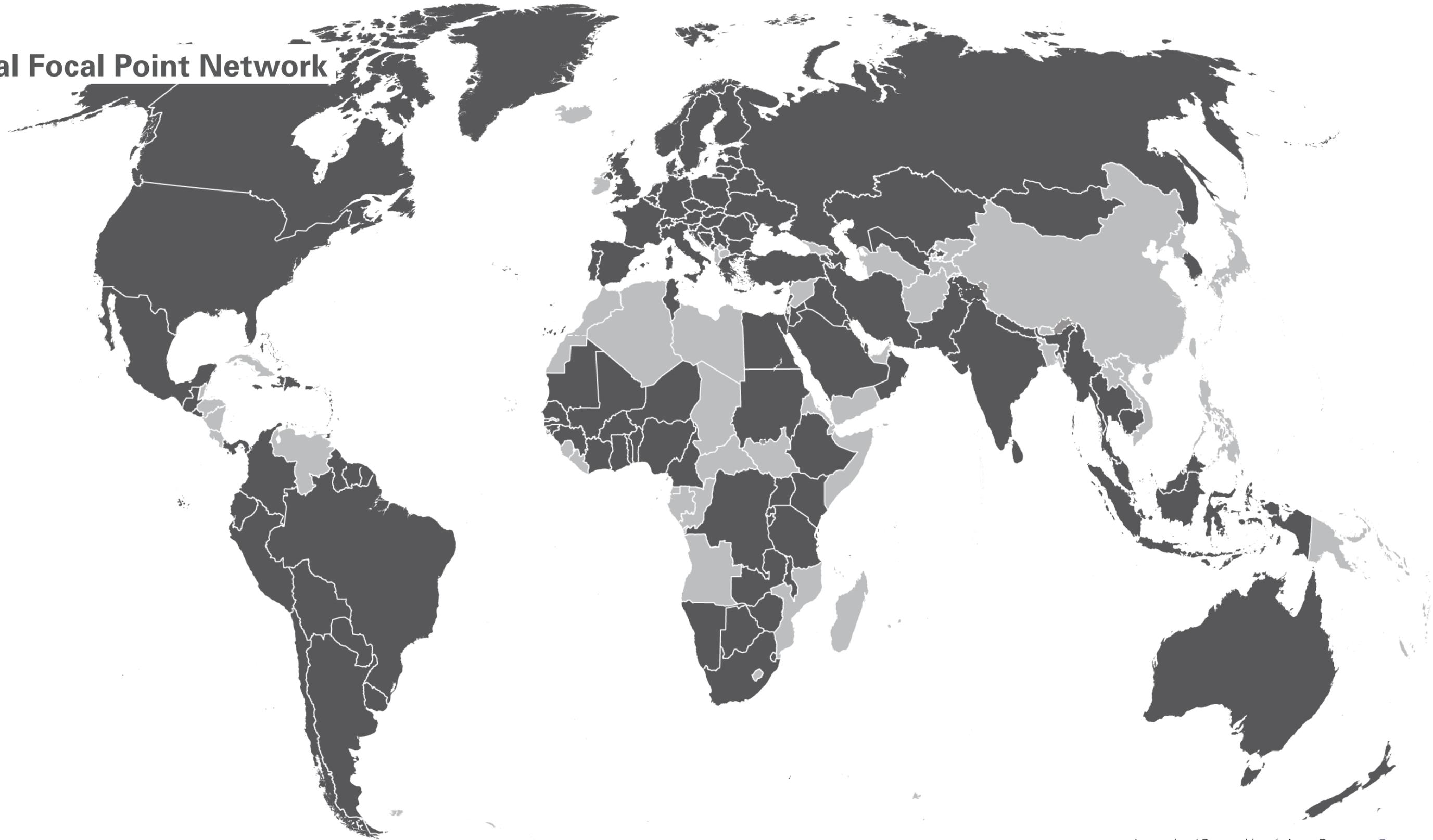
Please visit <https://guidelines.assetrecovery.org/> for more.

## GLOBAL

# INTERPOL/StAR Global Focal Point Network

Launched in 2009, the INTERPOL/StAR Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery (GFPN) was established with the aim of assisting practitioners to overcome operational barriers associated with facilitating repatriation of the proceeds of corruption by providing a secure information exchange platform for criminal asset recovery. Authorized law enforcement officers from each member country (INTERPOL member countries) are designated as “Focal Points” and are available to respond to immediate requests for asset recovery assistance from any other member country. The immediate strategic objective of this initiative is to respond to concerns of asset freezing, seizing, confiscating and recovering stolen assets. A continuing objective is to facilitate secure exchange of sensitive information among the Focal Points from anti-corruption and asset recovery agencies.

As many as two-thirds of the registered Focal Points do not have secure email systems, which means that many have been reluctant to exchange information via email. With the launch in July 2013 of a new INTERPOL system known as I-SECOM, for the first time the specialized anti-corruption community has a secure web-based email capability. This password-protected, encrypted channel encourages the



exchange of sensitive data and will contribute to the success of current and future investigations.

The network currently has 234 dedicated Focal Points nominated by national law enforcement agencies, judicial and administrative authorities, and represents 133 countries. The GFPN is also providing operational support and technical assistance to its members, as well as working meetings, conferences, and training workshops organized in various regions of the world.

### Members:

Andorra; Argentina; Armenia; Australia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Belarus; Belgium; Benin; Bhutan; Bolivia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei; Bulgaria; Burkina-Faso; Burundi; Cambodia; Cameroon; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Congo, Democratic Republic of; Côte d'Ivoire; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Estonia; Eswatini; Ethiopia; Fiji; Finland; France; Gambia; Germany; Ghana; Gibraltar (UK); Greece; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Hong Kong SAR, China; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Iraq; Israel; Italy; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Korea, Republic of; Kuwait; Latvia; Lebanon; Liberia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macao SAR, China; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Moldova; Monaco; Mongolia; Montenegro; Myanmar; Namibia; Nepal; Netherlands; New Zealand; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Russia; Rwanda; San Marino; Sao Tome and Principe; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Serbia; Seychelles; Singapore; Slovakia; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; St Vincent & Grenadines; Sudan; Sweden; Switzerland; Tanzania; Thailand; Timor Leste; Togo; Trinidad & Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; Ukraine; United Kingdom; United States; Uruguay; Uzbekistan; Venezuela; Zambia; Zimbabwe

### Contact Information

**Address:** INTERPOL General Secrétariat 200, Quai Charles de Gaulle 69006 Lyon, France

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**Website:** <https://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Corruption/International-asset-recovery>

### Working languages

English, French, Arabic, Spanish

## Regional Networks

### Background<sup>4</sup>

Asset Recovery Inter-agency Networks provide practitioners in the field of asset confiscation and recovery an opportunity to address challenges in international cooperation. The Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network was the first of these networks, and others established later operate around the same primary objectives, namely: the identification, seizure, freezing, confiscation and recovery of assets pertaining to all crimes. They all have common methodologies and objectives.

The networks are placing increased focus on asset confiscation and the return of proceeds of crime. Although most countries are successful in prosecuting corruption cases, instances of actual asset confiscation and return are rare. With the increased focus on coordination and exchange of information in a timely and informal manner, there has been a significant increase in multi-jurisdictional coordination efforts toward confiscation.

The networks promote international cooperation through informal channels of communication between requesting and request-

receiving States. In that respect, they bring together relevant competent authorities for all crimes, including practitioners involved in asset recovery and anti-corruption prior to making formal requests for mutual legal assistance. By building confidence and establishing trust between practitioners, a foundation is created for smooth international cooperation. This has already resulted in an increased number of requests for information aimed at identifying, locating, seizing and confiscating proceeds of crime in other countries and across regions. To that end, it is typical for two officials or institutions from each jurisdiction with technical expertise in asset confiscation to be designated as contact points. Typically, one of the contact points will be from an agency involved in asset tracing and forfeiture or will have direct access to practitioners in that area, such as law enforcement agencies and prosecution authorities. Contact points promote the exchange of information and good practices relating to asset confiscation and recovery, including mutual legal assistance, although mutual legal assistance requests must be submitted through the appropriate

formal legal channels.

A shared objective of the asset recovery inter-agency network effort is to perform a knowledge-building function, through training on all aspects of tackling the proceeds of crime. Often, regional networks use their meetings to share experiences on different issues. These specialized gatherings of experts are useful in identifying good practices and formulating recommendations for both policymakers and practitioners in asset recovery.

Within each network, the contact points work together by holding in-person meetings, communicating electronically or through the secretariat. Most networks meet at least once a year, but may on occasion meet more often. In order to enhance secure communication and the generation of statistics, the networks develop secure platforms accessible only to their members. This is, for example, the case with the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa and the Latin-America Asset Recovery Network (RRAG). RRAG has an electronic platform located in the financial intelligence unit of Costa Rica, while the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement

4. Excerpt from: Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, "Timely sharing of information in accordance with article 56 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and improving communication and coordination between various asset recovery practitioner networks: Background document prepared by the Secretariat," United Nations Document CAC/COSP/WG.2/2018/5 (5 April 2018) [hereinafter "Timely Sharing of Information: Background document prepared by the Secretariat"].

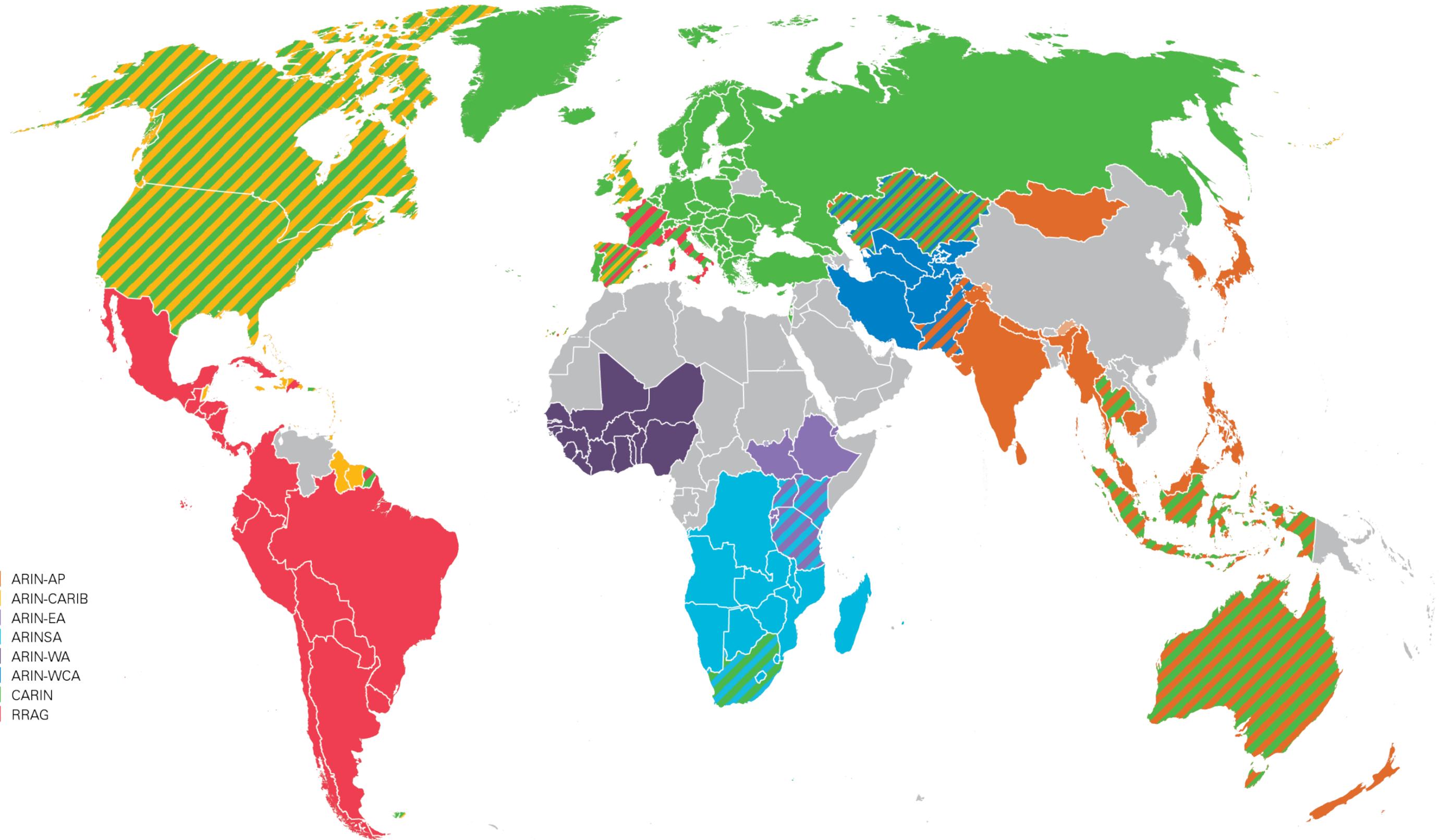
Cooperation (Europol) provides secure message facilities through its Secure Information Exchange Network Application. The secretariats of the networks also facilitate communication among contact points. The networks generally have a president and a steering group that oversee the activities of the network, external communication and the preparation for periodic meetings.

Please continue reading for an overview of each regional Asset Recovery Network.

**Who should contact the networks?**

You may request assistance if you are a law enforcement officer (police, customs, or other official personnel linked to law enforcement agencies), a prosecutor, magistrate or judge, or an official from an Asset Recovery Office (ARO) or Asset Management Office (AMO).

- ARIN-AP
- ARIN-CARIB
- ARIN-EA
- ARINSA
- ARIN-WA
- ARIN-WCA
- CARIN
- RRAG



# ARIN-AP

The Asset Recovery Interagency Network for Asia Pacific, ARIN-AP, was officially launched in November 2013 and serves as a cooperative group for all aspects of tackling the proceeds of crime in the region.

## Structure

### Governance:

**Steering Group:** The group is comprised of up to nine members for a period of one year. The group may establish working groups to examine and report on legal and practical issues.

**Presidency:** The steering group elects the president who will oversee external communications on behalf of the network.

**Secretariat:** The Korean Supreme Prosecutors' Office

## Members

**Members:** Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; Cook Islands; India; Indonesia; Japan; Kazakhstan; Korea, Republic of; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Philippines; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Taiwan, China; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga

**Observers:** ARIN-CARIB; ARINSA; CARIN; Interpol; Korean Institute of Criminology (KIC); Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN); UNODC; World Bank

## Contact information

**Address:** Office No.505, International Cooperation Center, Supreme Prosecutors' Office, 157 Banpodaero, Seocho-gu, Seoul, Korea [06590]

**Telephone:** +82-2-535-0414

**Fax:** +82-2-535-0807

**Email:** [ARIN-AP@spo.go.kr](mailto:ARIN-AP@spo.go.kr)

**Website:** <http://www.arin-ap.org/main.do>

## Working language

English



# ARIN-CARIB

The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for the Caribbean, ARIN-CARIB, was launched in 2017 to establish a network of contact points in the region and focus on all aspects of Asset Recovery activities.

## Structure

### Governance:

**Steering Group:** It is comprised of up to seven members and oversees the administration of the network. The group may establish working groups to examine and report on legal and practical issues, assist in the preparation of the annual conference agenda, and identify areas for consideration at plenary.

**Presidency:** One of the steering group representatives will be elected as president for one year and oversees the external communication on behalf of the network.

**Secretariat:** The Regional Security System (RSS) – Asset Recovery Unit serves as the permanent secretariat.

### Members

**Members:** Antigua & Barbuda; Anguilla; Aruba; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Bermuda; Bonaire; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; Curacao; Dominica; Dominican Republic; French Guyana; Grenada; Guyana; Guadeloupe; Haiti; Jamaica; Martinique; Montserrat; Saba; St Barthelemy; St Eustatius; St Kitts & Nevis; St Lucia; St Martin; St Maarten; St Vincent & the Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago; Turks & Caicos; United States

**Observers:** OAS; Spain; United Kingdom; Canada; CFATF; CARICOM IMPACS; Other ARIN Networks

### Contact information

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**Fax:** +1-246-420-7316

**Email:** [arin-carib@rss.org.bb](mailto:arin-carib@rss.org.bb)

### Working language

English



## ARIN-EA

The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for East Africa, ARIN-EA, was founded in 2013 to exchange information on individuals, companies and assets at the international level with the intention of facilitating the pursuit and recovery of proceeds of unlawful activities and to deprive criminals of their illicit profits within the Eastern African region and to cooperate with other asset recovery networks globally.

### Structure

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#### Governance:

**Steering Group:** It is comprised of a representative from each member country, holding a minimum of two meetings per year. Decisions are made by voting on the basis of a simple majority.

**Presidency:** The president is nominated by the steering group and elected by all members of ARIN-EA. The president oversees external communications on behalf of the network.

**Secretariat:** Members of the East African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (EAAACA) serve as secretariat.

### Members

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**Members:** Burundi; Djibouti; Ethiopia; Kenya; Rwanda; South Sudan; Tanzania; Uganda

**Observers:** CARIN; ARIN-AP; ARIN-CARIB; ARINSA; ARIN-WA

### Contact information

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**Email:** [arineasecretariat@eaaaca.org](mailto:arineasecretariat@eaaaca.org)

**Telephone:** +256-701-966966 / 0392-966078

### Working language

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English



# ARINSA

The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa was founded in 2009 to help member states exchange information and model legislation in asset forfeiture, confiscation and money laundering.

## Structure

### Governance:

**Steering Group:** It comprises up to six members. It assists in the preparation of the annual conference agenda and identifies areas for consideration at plenary.

**Presidency:** One of the steering group representatives holds the presidency for one year. The president oversees external communications on behalf of the network.

**Secretariat:** The Asset Forfeiture Unit at the National Prosecuting Authority in South Africa provides a permanent secretariat function.

## Members

**Members:** Botswana; Eswatini; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; South Africa; Tanzania; Uganda; Zambia; Zimbabwe

**Observers:** Angola; Burundi; Congo, Democratic Republic of; Kenya; Uganda; CARIN; UNODC; ARIN-EA; ARIN-WA; ARIN-AP

**Associate Status:** World Bank

## Contact information

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**Telephone:** +27-12-432-0820 / +27-12-845-6732

**Email:** [jpwillemse@npa.gov.za](mailto:jpwillemse@npa.gov.za) / [arinsa@npa.gov.za](mailto:arinsa@npa.gov.za)

**Website:** <https://new.arinsa.org>

## Working language

English



# ARIN-WA

The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa, ARIN WA, was founded in 2014 to facilitate the pursuit and recovery of proceeds of unlawful activities. It is an informal regional network of practitioners and a cooperative group in the field of identification, seizure, confiscation and management of the proceeds of crime.

## Structure

### Governance:

**Steering Group:** N/A

**Presidency:** One of the member countries, as approved by the plenary session, holds the presidency for the network for two years. The president supervises and coordinates the activities of the network, chairs the meetings, and acts as the spokesperson.

**Secretariat:** The Judicial Agency of the Treasury (AJT) of Côte d'Ivoire serves as a permanent secretariat.

### Members

**Members:** Benin; Burkina Faso; Cabo Verde; Côte d'Ivoire; The Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Liberia; Mali; Niger; Nigeria; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Togo; Sao Tome and Principe

**Observers:** UNODC; CARIN; ARIN-EA; ARIN-SA; ARIN-AP; RRAG

### Contact information

**Address:** Plateau, Jesse Owens Road, Immeuble Ex-Ambassade des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, 4ème étage -BP V 98, Abidjan - Cote d'Ivoire

**Telephone:** +225-20-25-38-15 / +225-07-68-80-02

**Email:** [ly.sangare@tresor.gouv.ci](mailto:ly.sangare@tresor.gouv.ci)

### Working languages

English, French, Portuguese



# ARIN-WCA

The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network—West and Central Asia officially launched in November 2018 as an informal network of contacts across the region. It aims to increase the effectiveness of members' individual efforts in depriving criminals of their illicit profits, on a multi-agency basis, through international collaboration.

## Structure

### Governance:

**Steering Group:** It comprises up to five members. It assists in the preparation of the annual conference agenda, identifies areas for consideration at plenary, and may establish working groups to examine and report on legal and practical issues.

**Presidency:** A member state will be elected to the Presidency by the Steering Group for a period of at least two years. The President will oversee external communications on behalf of the network.

**Secretariat:** The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan hosts the permanent ARIN-WCA Secretariat.

### Members

**Members:** Afghanistan; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Pakistan; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan

**Observers:** Observer status will be available following the official launch to states and jurisdictions that do not qualify for Member status (due to location or participation requirements), and non-private bodies (such as other asset recovery networks) concerned with the identification and confiscation of the proceeds from crime.

**Associate Status:** Associate Associate Status will be available to bodies that, although not involved with the operational exchange of law enforcement and judicial information, demonstrate a complementary strategic role in the identification and confiscation of the proceeds from crime.

### Contact information

**Address:** ARIN-WCA Secretariat, 66, Acad. Ya.Gulyamov str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**Telephone:** +998 71 202 07 13

**Email:** [arin-wca@prokuratura.uz](mailto:arin-wca@prokuratura.uz)

### Working languages

Dari, English, Russian



# CARIN

Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network, known as CARIN, was established in 2004. It is an informal network of law enforcement, judicial practitioners, and specialists in the field of asset tracing, freezing, seizure, and confiscation. It is an interagency network. Each member state is represented by a law enforcement officer and a judicial expert (prosecutor, investigating judge, depending on the legal system).

## Structure

### Governance:

**Steering Group:** It is comprised of up to nine members, and it assists in the preparation of the annual conference agenda and identifies areas for consideration at plenary.

**Presidency:** One of the steering group representatives is elected as president for one year. The president oversees external communications on behalf of the network.

**Secretariat:** Europol hosts the permanent CARIN secretariat.

### Members

**Members:** Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Gibraltar; Greece; Guernsey; Hungary; Ireland; Isle of Man; Italy; Jersey; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; United Kingdom; United States

**Observers:** Albania; Andorra; ARIN-AP; ARIN-CARIB; ARIN-EA; ARIN-SA; ARIN-WA; Australia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Canada; Egmont Group; EUROJUST; EUROPOL; FYR Macedonia; Georgia; Iceland; Indonesia; International Criminal Court; Interpol; Israel; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Moldova; Monaco; Montenegro; OLAF; RRAG; Russia; Serbia; South Africa; Thailand; Ukraine

**Associate Status:** Council of Europe; International Monetary Fund; UNODC; World Bank

### Contact Information

**Address:** CARIN Secretariat Eisenhowerlaan 73, 2517 KK The Hague, The Netherlands

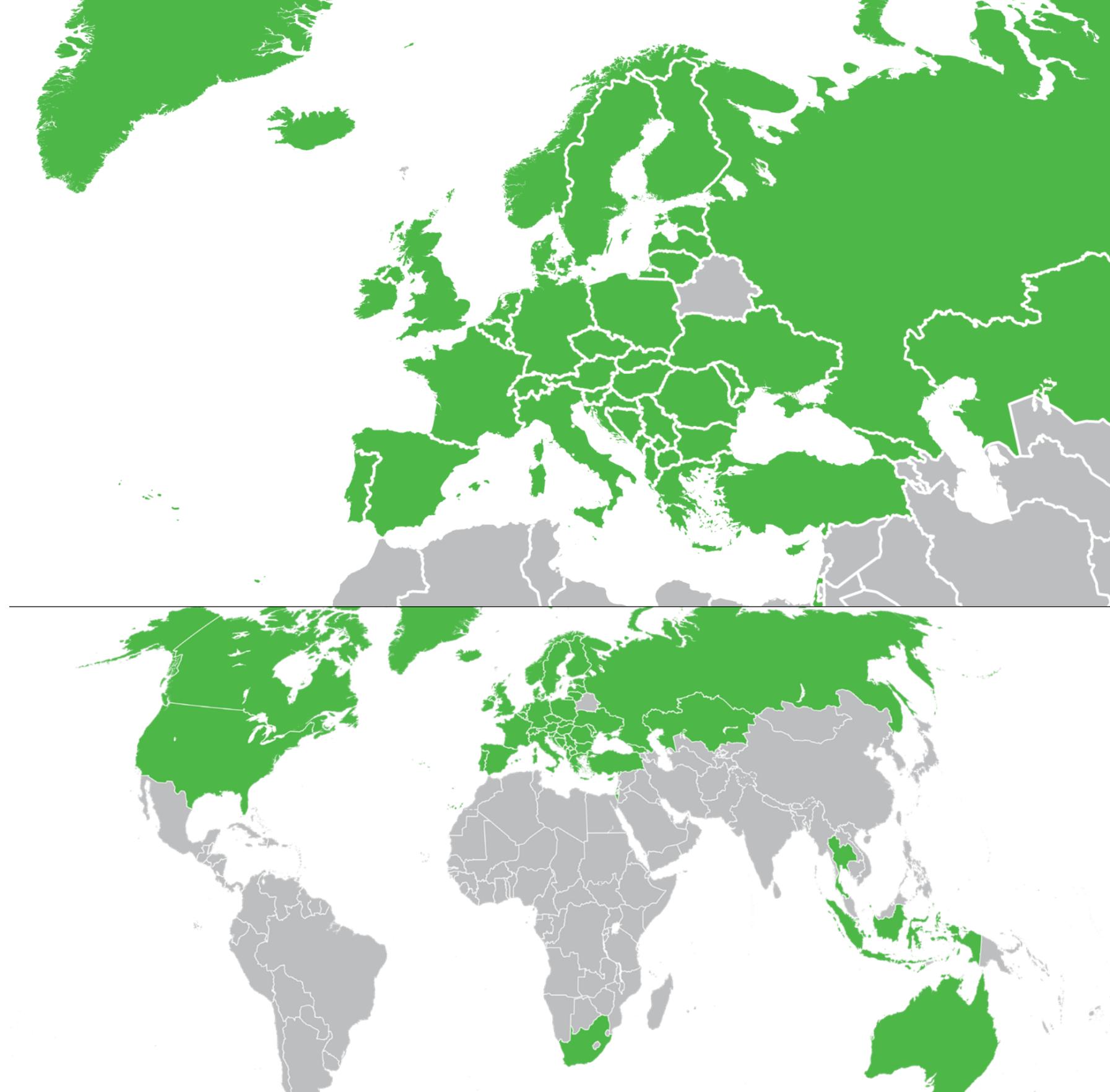
**Telephone:** +31(0)-70-353-1720

**Email:** [CARIN@europol.europa.eu](mailto:CARIN@europol.europa.eu)

**Website:** <http://carin-network.org>

### Working language

English



# RRAG

Red de Recuperación de Activos de GAFILAT, or RRAG, is a network for exchange of information between contact points and practitioners in asset recovery, initiated by the United Nations, Organization of American States (OAS), INTERPOL and GAFISUD for South American countries. It aims to facilitate the identification and location of assets, products or instruments derived from illegal activities. It was established in 2009. Since October 2010, RRAG has had an electronic platform for the secure exchange of information, which is located and maintained by the Financial Intelligence Unit of Costa Rica.

## Structure

### Governance:

**Steering Group:** It is known as *Coordinación*, literally meaning coordination group, and is formed by Chile, Paraguay and Costa Rica.

**Presidency:** N/A

**Secretariat:** The position is held by the technical specialist assisting the Operational Support Working Group (GTAO) of the Financial Action Task force of Latin America (GAFILAT).

### Members

**Members:** Argentina; Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Uruguay; Spain; France; and Italy

**Observers:** CARIN; ARIN-AP; ARIN-CARIB; ARIN-WA; ARINSA; ARIN-EA; UNODC Regional Office in Colombia; INTERPOL; Organization of American States

### Contact information

**Address:** Florida 939, 10 A, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Zip Code 1005

**Telephone:** +54-11-5252-9292

**Email:** [jcponce@gafilat.org](mailto:jcponce@gafilat.org)

**Website:** <http://www.gafilat.org>

### Working language

Spanish



## Cooperation Between the Regional Networks<sup>5</sup>

Because criminal cases tend to require assistance across geographical regions, there has been a greater move towards establishing contacts between networks. This helps to avoid duplication, increases the geographical reach of the regional networks and enables the contact points to engage across the globe when cases involve countries outside their own region.

In order to strengthen ties between the networks, the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network secretariat and Europol host and fund annual meetings for representatives of all regional asset recovery inter-agency networks for peer training, exchange of knowledge, information-sharing and networking. Attending the plenary meetings and facilitating training are seen as other ways to strengthen links between networks. Some of the networks allow other regional networks access to their online platforms. For example, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa grants access to its communication platform to contact points from other regional networks. The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for the Caribbean will launch its website in 2019, which will also be accessible to other networks.

English is the working language for ARIN-AP, ARIN-CARIB, ARIN-EA,

ARINSA and CARIN. Both English and French are the working languages for ARIN-WA. Spanish is the working language for RRAG. At the same time, interpretation may be provided in annual general meetings or for technical assistance activities provided by the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa.

There is also an established practice of cooperation, whereby contact points are connected through their secretariats. The secretariats facilitate initial contact with other regional networks within the international legal frameworks available. Such contacts have been instrumental in advancing transnational cases. For example, in one case, contacts in Switzerland were established by the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa through the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network, to ask law enforcement authorities in Switzerland to freeze money held in Swiss banks.

5. Excerpt from: "Timely Sharing of Information: Background document prepared by the Secretariat."

## OTHER PARTNERSHIPS EGMONT Group

The Egmont Group is a global operational organization of 159 Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs). Although not an Asset Recovery Network per se, the Egmont Group provides a platform for the member FIUs to securely exchange operational financial intelligence and expertise to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. This is especially relevant as FIUs are uniquely positioned to cooperate and support national and international efforts to counter money laundering and terrorist financing and are the trusted gateway for sharing financial information domestically and internationally in accordance with global anti money laundering and counter financing of terrorism standards.

The Egmont Group supports the efforts of its member FIUs and international partners such as the United Nations, the G20 Finance Ministers, and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing. The Egmont Group adds value to the work of member FIUs by improving the understanding of money laundering and terrorist financing risks, as well as by providing a platform for the secure exchange of financial intelligence information (Egmont Secure Web). The organization is able to draw upon operational experience to inform domestic and international anti money laundering and counter financing of terrorism policy.

### Contact information

**Address:** Egmont Group Secretariat, PO BOX 67130 Toronto, Ontario, M4P 3C8, Canada

**Telephone:** +1 416-355-5670

**Fax:** +1 416-929-0619

**Email:** [mail@egmontsecretariat.org](mailto:mail@egmontsecretariat.org)

**Website:** <https://egmontgroup.org/en>

# International Anti-Corruption Coordination Center

The International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC) brings together specialist law enforcement officers from multiple agencies around the world to tackle allegations of grand corruption. Acts that might fall into this category include: bribery of public officials, embezzlement, abuse of function and laundering of the proceeds of crime.

The IACCC aims to:

**Inform**—which organizations and initiatives can offer assistance,

**Assist**—with practical actions and advice,

**Collect**—information to form a single picture of grand corruption,

**Coordinate**—an effective global law enforcement response,

**Collaborate**—by creating a constructive, cooperative and agreed approach.

The IACCC was officially launched in July 2017 and is hosted by the National Crime Agency in London until 2021 when it is anticipated that hosting function will transfer to another participant country. The centre plans to improve fast-time intelligence sharing, assist countries that have suffered grand corruption, and help bring corrupt elites to justice.

Non-participating law enforcement agencies may refer cases of grand

corruption to the IACCC, but it is not intended for non-law enforcement agencies or members of the public to refer cases directly to the IACCC.

## Members

Australian Federal Police; New Zealand's Serious Fraud Office; New Zealand Police; Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau of the Republic of Singapore; UK's National Crime Agency; USA's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); Department of Homeland Security (DHS); Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI); as well as INTERPOL. Switzerland and Germany were involved in the design and establishment of the IACCC and will remain observers, participating in the IACCC Governance Board meetings as occasion demands.

## Contact information

**Address:** Units 1–6 Citadel Place, Tinworth Street, London SE11 5EF, UK

**Telephone:** +44-0370-496-7622

**Website:** <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do/economic-crime/international-anti-corruption-coordination-centre>



## Asset Recovery Forums

Ad hoc asset recovery forums have offered practitioners from around the world an opportunity to collaborate on their ongoing cases and achieve tangible results. Forums such as the **Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR)**, the **Arab Forums on Asset Recovery (AFAR)** and the **Ukraine Forum on Asset Recovery (UFAR)** were structured to break down bureaucratic silos. They uniquely brought together policymakers with investigators and prosecutors, as well as high-level political officials responsible for asset recovery efforts and civil society organizations. These forums offer the opportunity to dispense with the typical geographic groupings by bringing together requesting and requested countries, including financial centers and countries relevant for the asset tracing work necessary to advance specific investigations. The deliverables of these forums included progress on cases achieved by focus countries, increased capacity through technical sessions, renewed commitment to advancing asset recovery cases, and increased collaboration among involved jurisdictions.

Most recently, in December 2017 the StAR Initiative organized the inaugural GFAR, co-hosted by the United States and the United Kingdom, gathering over 250 participants representing 26

jurisdictions as well as international organizations, civil society and media. The GFAR event was the culmination of one year of intense collaboration between co-hosts, focus countries as well as invited jurisdictions, and civil society organizations. The StAR team provided technical assistance on asset recovery case preparations and facilitated international cooperation for the focus countries Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Nigeria and Ukraine. In addition to providing a venue for over 100 bilateral and multi-jurisdictional meetings to advance case specific efforts, GFAR also provided a forum for training and discussion of emerging topics in the field, such as best practices on the use of technology in asset tracing, while also providing a venue to identify country-specific capacity building needs.

Such events have led to promising results. In the case of GFAR, Sri Lanka's Attorney General noted that the forum allowed his country to advance their asset recovery efforts by fifteen years. For the first time, Sri Lanka held multi-jurisdictional meetings to discuss the movement of stolen assets across borders for specific coordination on investigations. Through GFAR and UFAR, Ukrainian officials have been able to advance numerous asset tracing investigations with various financial centers and have significantly strengthened coordination



with the U.S., UK, and Switzerland. Tunisia has built on its work at AFAR by following up on its pending asset recovery cases at GFAR. Active civil society involvement from focus countries during GFAR also helped to set a standard for future engagement, as well as for follow up with officials upon returning back to home countries.

For further information see:

- **GFAR:** <https://star.worldbank.org/about-us/global-forum-asset-recovery-gfar>
- **AFAR:** <https://star.worldbank.org/ArabForum/About>
- **UFAR:** <https://star.worldbank.org/UFAR/ukraine-forum-asset-recovery-ufar>

## Useful Links

- **Asociación Iberoamericana de Ministerios Públicos (AIAMP):** a non-profit organization that integrates the Public Prosecutors of Latin America: <http://aiamp.info/>
- **European Judicial Network:** representatives of national judicial and prosecution authorities designated as contact points for MLA: <http://www.ejn-crimjust.europa.eu/ejn/>
- **Eurojust:** judges and prosecutors from European Union Member States who assist national authorities in investigating and prosecuting serious cross-border criminal cases: <http://eurojust.europa.eu/>
- **The Guidelines for the Efficient Recovery of Stolen Assets:** <https://guidelines.assetrecovery.org/>
- **Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR):** <https://star.worldbank.org/star/about-us/global-forum-asset-recovery-gfar>
- **UNODC, "International Cooperation":** <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/international-cooperation.html>
- **Ukrainian Forum on Asset Recovery (UFAR):** <http://star.worldbank.org/star/ufar/ukraine-forum-asset-recovery-ufar>
- **World Customs Organisation:** network of regional liaison officers <http://www.wcoomd.org/en.aspx>

## Acknowledgements

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Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative

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