Open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption
Vienna, 12–14 June 2024
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Thematic discussion on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation: effective communication and cooperation, information-sharing, inter-agency approaches, law enforcement cooperation and use of networks

Discussion guide on effective communication and cooperation, information-sharing, inter-agency approaches, law enforcement cooperation and the use of networks: measures taken by States parties in follow-up to the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption

Note by the Secretariat

Summary
The present note has been prepared in accordance with the workplan for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and is aimed at facilitating the deliberations of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention and the ongoing exchange of experiences on measures taken by States parties in follow-up to the provisions of the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, with a particular focus on effective communication and cooperation, information-sharing, inter-agency approaches, law enforcement cooperation and the use of networks.

* CAC/COSP/EG.1/2024/1.
I. Introduction

1. The political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation” was adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021.¹ Member States committed to implementing the political declaration and invited the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as the treaty body with prime responsibility for promoting and reviewing the implementation of the Convention, to follow up and build on the declaration.

2. In its resolution 9/2, entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthening international cooperation: follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, the Conference directed its subsidiary bodies, within their mandates, to take appropriate measures to follow up on the political declaration. All the subsidiary bodies subsequently added thematic items to their respective agendas on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.

3. The proposed multi-year workplan for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference for 2023–2026 on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, approved by the extended Bureau of the Conference in March 2023, suggested effective communication and cooperation, information-sharing, inter-agency approaches, law enforcement cooperation and the use of networks as topics of discussion at the thirteenth expert meeting.

4. In the political declaration, Member States reiterated the need for strong international cooperation and assistance in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption offences, as well as in the recovery and return of confiscated assets in accordance with the Convention.

5. In paragraph 33 of the political declaration, Member States were encouraged to use and strengthen appropriate focal points to facilitate information exchange between each other, noting existing agreements, formal international forums or networks for that purpose. In paragraph 38, Member States emphasized the need for reliable, high-quality, timely and effective communication and procedures, including to reduce the time required for sending requests through official channels in preparation for or during mutual legal assistance requests in criminal cases, including through secure electronic communication channels, and called upon the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to continue working in close cooperation and in complementarity in that regard.²

6. Furthermore, Member States endeavoured to establish contact and communication between competent authorities by utilizing appropriate channels to foster cross-border cooperation in the collection and sharing of evidence and the enforcement of judicial orders, in accordance with domestic law and international obligations. Member States acknowledged that effective and timely communication and cooperation between competent authorities could be an important factor in curbing the cross-border movement of persons involved in the commission of corruption offences.

7. Member States also recognized, in paragraph 39 of the declaration, the critical importance of developing and maintaining international networks of law enforcement

¹ See operative paragraphs 32–40.
² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) portal, Special session of the General Assembly against Corruption 2021, Repository of contributions to the follow-up process to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, “International cooperation”. Available at https://track.unodc.org/.
officials to advance international cooperation for the success of corruption cases. Furthermore, they committed to better utilizing and strengthening international, regional and cross-regional law enforcement and, as appropriate, judicial cooperation networks as platforms among competent authorities for information-sharing and mutual legal assistance and the development and dissemination of specialized knowledge. Moreover, in paragraph 44, they committed to strengthening reliable and timely information exchange and engaging in proactive and responsive information-sharing, in accordance with domestic legal systems, by making better use of all available instruments, as appropriate and in accordance with the Convention and domestic law, and to request and provide international cooperation in accordance with the Convention.

8. Accordingly, the present note has been prepared to facilitate the ongoing exchange of experiences, to explore and highlight efforts and measures taken by States parties to improve communication and cooperation, and to examine how to best make further progress in addressing the challenges identified in follow-up to the political declaration.

II. Measures adopted by States on information-sharing, effective communication, inter-agency approaches, law enforcement cooperation and the use of networks for the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases.

9. The present note has been prepared on the basis of the information in the 177 executive summaries completed in the first cycle and the 87 executive summaries completed in the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention as at 27 March 2024.

10. The Convention emphasizes the need to collect, disclose and share information at the domestic and international levels. Provisions on the exchange of information are contained in chapters II to VII of the Convention. Effective communication and cooperation measures are also spread across various provisions of the Convention, starting with article 1.

11. The present note focuses on existing trends in implementation and includes the most common challenges and good practices. The structure of the present section mirrors the structure of the executive summaries by clustering closely linked articles and topics. More specifically, the section analyses information-sharing (art. 46, paras. 4, 5 and 29; art. 48, para. 1; art. 52, para. 5; and art. 56); effective communication and cooperation (arts. 37–39; art. 44, para. 11; art. 46, para. 13; art. 48, para. 2; and arts. 56 and 58); inter-agency approaches (arts. 36–39); law enforcement cooperation (art. 48) and the use of networks (art. 48, para. 2).

12. A correlation exists between the provisions that deal with all topics among the provisions reviewed in the first and second cycles of the Mechanism. While the present note contains an initial analysis of this correlation, the number of country

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3 See articles 9, 10, 13, 14, 32, 37, 38, 44, 46, 48, 52, 56, 61 and 63 of the Convention.
reviews finalized under the second review cycle continues to grow steadily and trends in implementation may change as more reviews are finalized.

13. Various measures have been established by States parties to encourage information exchange and cooperation among national authorities, including the duty to cooperate and provide all necessary information to the national anti-corruption agencies or prosecution services. Where such a duty did not exist in the law, States parties were encouraged to ensure that their legislation explicitly required public authorities to respond to relevant requests and provide cooperation.6

A. Information-sharing

14. Information-sharing was a specific form of cooperation that had been consistently viewed as an integral component of national, regional and international responses to corruption offences.

15. Regarding the exchange of information on the conduct of inquiries, most States parties provided an overview of their general legal and operational frameworks on information-sharing and measures of cooperation, as well as the purposes for which they were established, namely, the early identification, detection and investigation of offences established in accordance with the Convention. Several States parties provided information on inquiries that had been effectively conducted in cooperation with other States parties. Few States parties referred to the sharing of information on research results and forensic experience related to the means or methods used to commit offences.7

16. Information exchange was reported to be widespread among some authorities, such as financial intelligence units, with the vast majority of States parties indicating that they maintained or were developing interactions between their units and foreign counterparts.8 Those exchanges were mainly carried out through the conclusion of memorandums of understanding on cooperation in the transnational investigation and prosecution of persons involved in money-laundering activities.

17. Several factors had an impact on the ability to exchange information efficiently, including the existence of registers and case management systems, the use of secure communication platforms and the existence of domestic provisions on freedom of information.

18. During the direct dialogues, many governmental experts highlighted the value of establishing central databases or nationwide information systems on corruption offences, as they could facilitate the sharing and reporting of information by State agencies to the investigating and prosecuting authorities and the tracking of cases from the outset of an investigation to the conclusion of the criminal process. In the review outcomes, the matter of data collection was considered an important factor in achieving the goals of the Convention.9 Moreover, secure communications platforms were used to facilitate the exchange of information and real-time communication to enhance international cooperation measures.10

19. The transmission of information in response to a request occurred frequently, especially with countries in the same region, directly through international and ad hoc arrangements, police cooperation channels and networks of central authorities. Most State parties reported that they would comply with a request by a foreign State to maintain the confidentiality of information received spontaneously or following a request for assistance or to establish restrictions regarding its use, and that they would

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7 Ibid., pp. 250 and 251.
8 Ibid., p. 249.
9 CAC/COSP/EG.1/2017/CRP.1.
10 CAC/COSP/EG.1/2023/CRP.1.
consult with the foreign State should this potentially be inconsistent with domestic law.

20. The main limitation on the provision to requesting States parties of copies of government records, documents or information was data protection legislation. Most States parties indicated that records, documents or information available to the general public would be provided to a requesting State. Some States reported that special provisions on records of government agencies existed in their mutual legal assistance treaties. Variations were found in the ways and means of obtaining information and providing it to a requesting State. The existence of freedom of information acts contributed to the adequate flow of information to foreign counterparts.

**Spontaneous information exchange**

21. Information could be shared spontaneously or in response to a request. The spontaneous transmission of information to foreign authorities, as envisaged in article 46, paragraphs 4 and 5, of the Convention, was considered a good practice. The procedures in place for the exchange of information without prior request were in most cases not specifically regulated. Even if the spontaneous transmission of information was not provided for in the legislation, the majority of States parties reported that such transmission was possible as it was not explicitly prohibited. The use of informal arrangements for the spontaneous transmission of information was generally deemed satisfactory.

22. The main goal of spontaneously transmitting information to foreign authorities was to open new lines of investigation, initiate new criminal proceedings or support and expand ongoing inquiries in new directions. Few States addressed in detail the right to exchange information spontaneously in their domestic legislation; several States parties reported that they had used that practice on the basis of direct application of the Convention. Only 10 States parties reported that the spontaneous transmission of information was not possible. The situation remained unclear in some countries; in those cases, it was suggested that legislative amendments explicitly allowing the submission of information without prior request or establishing that requests to maintain confidentiality must be complied with could further enhance the application of article 46 of the Convention.

23. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of article 52 oblige States parties to consider establishing financial disclosure systems for appropriate public officials and to require them to disclose ownership of foreign financial accounts. A small number of States provided asset declarations to the public in part, in summary form or through a public register or a dedicated website, while other States granted access to declarations only to law enforcement authorities or made declarations accessible only upon request or consultation or subject to approval. The use of information and communications technologies for the submission and publication of asset declarations was also reported.

24. The exchange of information within the framework of law enforcement cooperation (art. 48, para. 1 (a)) was considered a common feature among financial intelligence units, with many States parties reporting the conclusion of memorandums of understanding or membership of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units. Moreover, the I-24/7 global police communications system of INTERPOL was referred to as a means of sharing crucial information on criminals and criminal activities worldwide.

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11 See CAC/COSP/2013/10.
12 Ibid.
15 CAC/COSP/2023/6.
16 See CAC/COSP/2013/10.
25. Article 56 requires States parties to endeavour to proactively disclose information on proceeds of Convention offences to another State party without prior request, when such disclosure might assist with the recovery of assets. The Convention leaves it to the discretion of States to determine how that information is exchanged. Almost all States allowed the spontaneous transmission of information, although some required prior approval to be sought or limited the use of such transmission to certain institutions, such as judicial authorities or financial intelligence units, through specific channels. Information might therefore also be provided through legislation, formal arrangements, informal practitioner networks, memorandums of understanding between financial intelligence units or the Egmont Group.

B. Effective communication

26. Channels of communication between specialized anti-corruption authorities were reported. Channels between law enforcement agencies were reported to be used frequently at the bilateral and regional levels and operated within the regulatory framework of international or other transnational organizations. The use of email for rapid communication had proved very useful in the day-to-day functioning of the bodies, as had tools such as secure databases for the sharing of information among law enforcement agencies.

27. Central authorities continued to play a crucial role in cooperation between requesting and requested States. In general, central authorities were responsible for providing their counterparts with updated guidelines, contact information and follow-up procedures. The exchange of information appeared to be a common feature among financial intelligence units, as the majority of States parties indicated that there was actual or developing engagement between their units and foreign units, mainly through the conclusion of memorandums of understanding or membership of the Egmont Group.

28. Furthermore, the extensive exchange of information and communication between governmental experts in the course of the reviews had contributed to the clarification of a number of issues pertaining to the substantive requirements of the Convention and to the making of good progress in the fight against corruption.

C. Inter-agency approaches

29. Inter-agency coordination and cooperation at the national level is a vital element in the fight against corruption. The legal and institutional challenges posed by corruption can be addressed only by following a coherent strategy rooted in existing initiatives and the participation of different stakeholders. In order to be effective, the fight against corruption requires highly developed organizational structures that avoid overlap and have clearly defined competences. The formulation and implementation

20 CAC/COSP/IRG/2016/8
of a national strategy against corruption requires a comprehensive approach involving collaboration and coordination among relevant stakeholders.

30. The Implementation Review Mechanism has proved beneficial to efforts to further the implementation of the Convention at the national level, facilitating broad inter-agency consultations about necessary legislative and institutional reforms, either prior to the country reviews or in response to the outcomes of those reviews.  

31. A matter related to the spontaneous sharing of information is spontaneous cooperation at the level of law enforcement agencies. Such cooperation, although noted and evaluated positively, was not always considered sufficient for the purposes of the Implementation Review Mechanism, in which case it was recommended to be enhanced through informal channels.

D. Law enforcement cooperation

32. Article 48 requires States parties to cooperate closely with one another, consistent with their respective domestic legal and administrative systems, to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement action to combat offences covered by the Convention. The measures that are foreseen to achieve that goal include the establishment or enhancement of adequate channels of communication, cooperation in conducting inquiries, the exchange of information on the means and methods used by offenders, the facilitation of effective coordination between law enforcement agencies and the establishment of cooperation agreements or arrangements between such agencies. Most countries have taken steps to implement the relevant requirements of the Convention.

33. Channels of communication between competent anti-corruption and law enforcement authorities were reported to be common, both at the regional and global levels (art. 48, para. 1 (a)). A number of States parties had domestic legislation to enable such cooperation. Cooperation was also rendered on the basis of treaties, under the regulatory framework of regional and international organizations. It was noted that membership of INTERPOL was generally regarded as facilitating law enforcement cooperation at the international level.

34. With respect to measures of cooperation in inquiries concerning offences covered by the Convention, most States parties provided an overview of the general legal framework within which such measures could be taken. Regarding coordination through the exchange of personnel or experts, some States parties confirmed the posting of police liaison officers to other countries or international organizations. Officials from law enforcement agencies frequently participated in joint training activities with international counterparts.


24 For more information on inter-agency cooperation, see also CAC/COSP/EG.1/2014/2; CAC/COSP/2017/5; Jakarta Statement on Principles of Anti-Corruption Agencies; Elaine Byrne, Anne-Katrin Arnold and Fumiko Nagano, Building Public Support for Anti-Corruption Efforts: Why Anti-Corruption Agencies Need to Communicate and How (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2010); UNODC, A Resource Guide on State Measures for Strengthening Corporate Integrity (Vienna, 2013); and UNODC, Colombo Commentary on the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies (Vienna, 2020).


26 See more information on law enforcement, United Nations Development Programme and UNODC, Criminalization and Law Enforcement: The Pacific’s Implementation of Chapter III of the UN Convention against Corruption (Suva, 2016); political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation” (operative paras. 23–31); and UNODC, Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) portal, Special session of the General Assembly against Corruption 2021, Repository of contributions to the follow-up process to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, “Criminalization and law enforcement”. Available at https://track.unodc.org/.
35. The majority of States parties concluded bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements on direct cooperation between law enforcement authorities as a matter of practice. However, the country review outcomes did not provide one uniform interpretation of possible modalities of cooperation to respond to offences committed through the use of modern technology. A number of States parties were not able to provide any information on the topic. Some States parties referred to their legislation on cybercrime and their ratification of international instruments in that regard.  

E. Use of networks

36. At the operational level, regional cooperation networks play an important role in helping countries to assess transnational or regional dimensions to criminal investigations. Many regional cooperation arrangements established networks of national focal or contact points for the purpose of facilitating direct communication.  

37. In some networks, contact points of law enforcement authorities had access to a secure communication system such as the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) Secure Communication Platform and the Ibero-American Network for International Legal Cooperation (IberRed), which could be used to facilitate the exchange of information and real-time communication. Moreover, references were made in the reviews to the INTERPOL I-24/7 global police communications system as a means of sharing police information; however, it was noted that INTERPOL could not replace direct channels of communication with law enforcement authorities of other States. A number of national financial intelligence units were members of the Egmont Group and referred to the Group’s communications platform.  

38. The scarcity of such channels beyond the regional context was a concern shared by States parties under review. In particular, asset recovery networks were regarded as important for the implementation of chapter V of the Convention.  

39. The activities of the GlobE Network since it was established in 2021 should be highlighted. The Network has enabled practitioners to connect directly, informally and securely and share information in order to detect, investigate and prosecute corruption cases. The Network comprised 200 members from 113 States parties to the Convention as at 9 April 2024. The Network’s secure communication platform can be used for the sharing of case-related information, the facilitation of mutual legal assistance and other formal cooperation processes and the establishment of new contacts with counterparts. Furthermore, the Network offers a comprehensive directory of authorities, enabling members to connect with operational anti-corruption authorities worldwide, and organizes plenary meetings to provide opportunities for members to meet in person to discuss relevant topics. An increasing number of bilateral and multi-jurisdictional case-related meetings are held during meetings of the Network.  


28 Participation in asset recovery networks such as the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Eastern Africa, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa, the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network, the Ibero-American Network for International Legal Cooperation, the Asset Recovery Network of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America and the Global Focal Point Network on Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery would also be relevant.  


30 Since 2021, the GlobE Network has been issuing a quarterly newsletter to keep members abreast of its work and international cooperation against corruption. The newsletter is available at https://globenetwork.unodc.org/globenetwork/en/news.html.
III. Legal basis for fostering information-sharing and cooperation: use of the Convention

40. More than half of States confirmed that they could use the Convention as the basis for cooperation in respect of corruption-related offences. However, the ability to use it in practice for extradition, mutual legal assistance and law enforcement cooperation varied among States parties.

41. States parties confirmed that they could use the Convention as the basis for international cooperation with respect to corruption-related offences, and few countries reported cases where the Convention had indeed been used for those purposes. However, four States explicitly excluded such a possibility, relying instead on other agreements and formal or informal arrangements. In those cases, States parties were encouraged to continue to enter into agreements to facilitate the exchange of information for cooperation purposes and to consider using the Convention as the legal basis for international cooperation in the absence of such arrangements. 31

IV. Status of implementation of selected articles of the Convention: good practices and challenges identified in relation to international cooperation

42. The present section includes an analysis of the most prevalent challenges and good practices in the implementation of selected provisions of the Convention, organized by topics. These are further broken down by article and by focusing on information exchange and effective communication and cooperation. The figures below cover the analysis of the 177 executive summaries completed in the first cycle and the 87 completed in the second cycle. The situation may have evolved since the completion of executive summaries, in particular for provisions covered in the first cycle.

A. Challenges in communication and cooperation and measures to overcome them

43. Consistent with the trend identified in thematic reports, the analysis confirmed that the most prevalent challenges to international cooperation are at the legislative, institutional and operational levels. Despite the fact that many States parties appear to have a wide array of normative and practical tools to meet the information-sharing and law enforcement cooperation requirements of the Convention, as well as broad experience in the use of such tools, considerable challenges remain.

44. From the outcome of both cycles of the Implementation Review Mechanism, information-sharing was considered a challenge in 190 cases. From a global analysis, 616 recommendations were issued in relation to effective communication and cooperation; of those, 119 were focused on law enforcement cooperation. A total of 395 recommendations were issued in relation to improving inter-agency approaches, and provisions related to participation in networks received 28 suggestions for improvement.

45. Some States parties still lacked the basic tools for cooperation, including domestic legislation, the ability to consider the Convention as a legal basis, systems for efficient domestic inter-agency coordination and cooperation or sufficient human resources, which could hinder their overall ability to cooperate effectively (arts. 44, 46 and 48).

46. The ability of some States parties to cooperate internationally in the area of law enforcement was constrained by difficulties with inter-agency coordination, as well as limited human resources and inadequate technological and institutional capacities. Furthermore, the conclusion of bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements or arrangements did not guarantee their application in practice.

47. The country review teams referred to the lack of formal measures pertaining to the transmission of information to a foreign competent authority without a prior request, which had an impact on the implementation of bank secrecy measures (art. 46, paras. 4 and 8).

48. The most common challenges in the area of cooperation related to ensuring effective inter-agency coordination, especially among agencies with an anti-corruption mandate; enhancing the implementation capacities of anti-corruption bodies and law enforcement agencies, especially regarding communication and data-sharing; and considering ways and means to better use available resources, for example, through the creation of synergies in order to establish comprehensive statistics on anti-corruption, ensure the more efficient management of corruption cases and reduce the risk of parallel investigations.

Figure II
Challenges and good practices identified in relation to inter-agency cooperation, by article

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Number of challenges</th>
<th>Number of good practices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art. 37</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art. 38</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art. 39</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
49. As noted in the context of evaluating the implementation of articles 36 and 38 in the first cycle, improved and enhanced inter-agency coordination could prevent fragmentation of efforts and ensure the existence of an efficient system for responding effectively to corruption. Recommendations were issued concerning resource allocation and the provision to anti-corruption bodies and institutions of sufficient financial and human resources to ensure their operational independence and efficiency, with a view to enhancing law enforcement cooperation and inter-agency coordination.

50. Regarding communication, difficulties arose owing to the lack of open and efficient communication between requesting and requested States, the poor quality of translations, delays in receiving responses and even a total lack of response by some national authorities. In view of this, the most significant challenges appeared to be of an operational nature and concerned the adoption of measures to give practical effect to existing legal instruments.  

51. Another cross-cutting problem regarding the implementation of chapter III appeared to be the lack, in many countries, of adequate statistical data or case law typologies relating to the investigation and prosecution of corruption offences, including the sentences imposed and the assets forfeited or confiscated. Although some data could be made available by individual authorities or for individual offences, the methodology used and the type of data collected were not consistent across institutions, the information available was not disaggregated by type of offence and no central mechanisms existed through which such data could be accessed. With regard to the general implementation of chapter IV, many States parties received a recommendation to consider establishing means, whether through case management or other avenues, for collecting statistical data to be able to assess and strengthen the practical implementation of the Convention.

B. Good practices in communication for advancing international cooperation

52. From a global analysis of both cycles, 140 good practices were identified in effective communication and cooperation; of those, 78 were focused on law enforcement cooperation, with coordination being recognized in 20 reviews. Inter-agency approaches were highlighted in 100 good practices, and in 12 assessments participation in networks was noted as having a positive impact on communication to advance international cooperation.

53. While 78 good practices were identified in the reviews in terms of information exchange, they represented only half of the recommendations made on the same articles. In all categories listed above, the number of recommendations made to address challenges far outweighed the number of good practices identified.

54. The analysis of good practices in the first cycle highlighted the flexible approaches conducive to effective cooperation, memberships of regional bodies or international organizations and networks, and domestic cooperation.

55. From the analysis of good practices in the second cycle, four States were commended for their efforts to engage in cross-border cooperation and for the ability to exchange financial intelligence. The use of forums and networks was identified as a good practice in nine countries. The use of the Convention as a legal basis for international cooperation and the ability to provide assistance in the absence of a treaty were highlighted as a good practice in four countries. Three countries were commended for their efforts to ensure active consultations with requesting States to facilitate the success of mutual legal assistance requests. Another category of good practices identified related to the institutional set-up for the prevention of money-laundering, in particular domestic inter-agency cooperation mechanisms.  

32 CAC/COSP/2015/5.  
33 CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/CRP.6.
C. Tools for improving efficiency in communication and cooperation

56. The Implementation Review Mechanism has substantially increased the sharing of information on implementation efforts by, inter alia, informing and complementing the tools and responses developed by UNODC. UNODC supported States parties through the development of normative and policy responses, technical assistance, data collection and research to address corruption.

57. UNODC continued to build capacity for: (a) law enforcement officials to identify, collect and preserve the evidence needed to investigate corruption offences; (b) prosecutorial and judicial authorities to use that evidence in court; and (c) central and competent authorities to handle and exchange data across borders without jeopardizing their admissibility in court.34 The tools developed by UNODC, including the GlobE Network Compendium of Practices on Informal Cooperation in Transnational Corruption Cases and knowledge sessions on various topics, help to improve international cooperation.35

58. Innovations such as the redeveloped UNODC Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool assisted in streamlining mutual legal assistance processes. In parallel, however, law enforcement increasingly needed to find pioneering ways to collaborate in transnational investigations for corruption offences. Despite the progress achieved, continuous efforts were needed to build the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice actors to respond to rapidly evolving forms of corruption.

V. Questions for discussion

59. The expert meeting, during its deliberations on the relevant agenda item, will serve as a platform for the exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned, developing effective responses and promoting relevant international instruments or standards to counter corruption. In considering further action to address the challenges posed by corruption and the way forward in developing appropriate responses, the meeting may wish to focus the discussion on areas in current national

legal and institutional frameworks that are perceived as presenting the greatest risk and on priority areas where States parties face the greatest challenges.

60. The meeting may wish to consider the following points for further discussion:

*Information-sharing*

(a) How can information-sharing be improved so that comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date information can inform policies and practices to prevent and investigate corruption offences?

(b) What are the challenges in the use of a centralized system for tracking and collating statistics specifically on corruption offences?

(c) What examples can States provide of how intensifying information-sharing at the regional and international levels has increased capacity to detect and assess risks and respond to requests effectively and in a timely manner?

*Inter-agency approaches*

(d) What challenges to strengthening institutional capacities and inter-agency coordination to address corruption are encountered at the national level?

(e) Has any experience been accumulated in developing model frameworks or guidelines for cooperation among relevant stakeholders at the national and international levels to prevent and combat corruption? If so, how did such model frameworks or guidelines foster actual collaboration?

*Law enforcement cooperation*

(f) What good practices and challenges exist in relation to police-to-police and law enforcement cooperation on corruption offences?

*The role of networks*

(g) What experience have countries had in participating in regional and global arrangements for cooperation in criminal matters? What are the factors that contribute to the success of such arrangements? What challenges exist?

(h) What role do regional extradition and mutual assistance treaties play? Are such treaties often relied upon as the legal basis for requests? Do any regions require the strengthening of such regional legal frameworks?

(i) Have the existing secure platforms at the operational level met the expectations for enhancing international cooperation? What challenges exist? What can be improved?

*Capacity-building and technical assistance*

(j) Which aspects of information exchange and effective cooperation have high priority with regard to technical assistance and capacity-building on corruption-related measures, in particular in view of the evolving nature of offences and the new and emerging threats associated with the use of information and communications technologies for the commission of offences?

(k) How can synergies and alliances be promoted in terms of information-sharing and cooperation between international organizations delivering technical assistance in matters of corruption to ensure the delivery of tangible and sustainable capacity-building services to States parties in need of assistance?