INTERVENTION BY
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
AT THE 15TH SESSION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP

AGENDA ITEM 5: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

14 JUNE 2024
VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Chairperson,

Thank you for giving us the floor to speak on this important agenda item on technical assistance.

South Africa underscores the importance of promoting, facilitating and supporting timely, sustainable, adequate and effective technical assistance for strengthening national capacities to prevent and fight against corruption. To this end, we appreciate the tailored technical assistance provided by the United Nations' Office on Drugs (UNODC) in support of the implementation of the UNCAC.

In close partnership with the UNODC Regional Office of Southern Africa, South Africa has delivered peer to peer training in the Southern African region, in order to combat illicit financial flows and enhance the recovery and return of stolen assets. In this context, the Prosecutor Placement Programme and the Investigator Placement Programme were developed, that included training by South African officials facilitated by the UNODC. In 2024, six training events will be held including a training for investigators and a separate training for prosecutors in 3 SADC countries.

Chairperson

South Africa works closely with the Regional Office of the UNODC of Southern Africa serves as Secretariat for the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa, (ARINSA). This network is not only used as a means of providing technical assistance in asset recovery and return to the region, but is also a means of facilitating international cooperation requests for recovering and returning stolen assets. In 2023, the ARINSA member countries reported 747 new anti-money laundering cases, new seizure orders of over $144million, and over $2billion in forfeiture orders. Over $100million of these were returned to the people by funding development initiatives such as law enforcement efforts.

We note with appreciation the update on technical assistance activities conducted by the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, in facilitating, amongst others, the
detection, confiscation, preservation, and ultimate return of stolen assets to their country of origin.

In concluding Chairperson, allow us to extend our appreciation to developmental partners of the UNODC who are providing extra-budgetary funding to enable technical assistance. We encourage others to follow this example to promote, facilitate, and support timely, sustainable, adequate, and effective technical assistance for strengthening national capacities to prevent and fight corruption in line with resolutions 8/8 and 9/4.

I thank you.