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Report on Impact of Technical Assistance, Capacity-Building and Knowledge Sharing Initiatives for Asset Recovery

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REPORT ON IMPACT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CAPACITY-BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING INITIATIVES FOR ASSET RECOVERY

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AARP-Forum	African Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum
ACTT	OECD Anti-Corruption Task Team
ACWG	Anti-Corruption Working Group
AIAMP	Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors
AIRE	Advice on Individual Rights in Europe
APG	Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering
ARIN	Asset Recovery Interagency Networks
ARINSA	Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa
AUABC	African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption
AUCPCC	African Union Convention for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption
CACT	Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce
CAPAR	Common African Position on Asset Recovery
CARIN	Camden Asset Recovery Inter-agency Network
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CODA	Coalition for Dialogue on Africa
COMJIB	Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries
COSP	Conference of State Parties
EAG	Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering
ED	Evaluation Division
FIAP	Foundation for the Internationalisation of Public Administration
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FIUs	Financial Intelligence Units
GAFILAT	Latin American Financial Action Task Force
Globe	Global Operational Network of Anticorruption Law Enforcement Authorities
HKIAAC	Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption
HLP	High-Level Principles
IBEROREG	Ibero-American Registry Network
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption, Hong Kong
ICAR	International Centre for Asset Recovery
IDLO	International Development Law Organization
IILA	Italian-Latin American Organization
ITMCFM	International Training and Methodology Centre of Financial Monitoring
MENA-ARIN	Middle East and North Africa Asset Recovery Network
MLA	Mutual Legal Assistance
NACIWA	Network of Anticorruption Institutions in West Africa
NCBF	Non-conviction-based forfeiture
PEP	Politically Exposed Persons
PILON	Pacific Islands Law Officers Network
StAR	Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative
UK	United Kingdom
UN-SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNTOC	United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To combat corruption, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) committed to, and adopted G20 High-Level Principles that include asset recovery, criminalization, prevention, law enforcement, and international cooperation. The ACWG has led G20 anti-corruption efforts by implementing multi-year action plans that identify priority issues and guide practical measures. The group remains cognizant of its commitment to lead by example in countering corruption and to monitor G20 members' progress towards commitments made.

As the 2025 Chair of the G20 ACWG, the South African Presidency has made improving asset recovery one of its top priorities by drafting the G20 High-Level Principles on the Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets Linked to Corruption and a Report on Technical Assistance provided by countries. The South African Presidency will build on the report on technical assistance and propose future capacity-building initiatives.

The current report is a summary of the responses from questionnaires administered to G20 member countries. The report highlights the impact of the technical assistance provided by or received by the African Union, G20 ACWG countries, including *Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom*¹.

The questionnaires covered the following issues: *a) participation in capacity-building activities; b) effectiveness, evaluation and assessment of capacity-building; c) challenges and gaps; d) recommendations and future needs; and e) additional comments.*

a) Participation in the delivery of capacity-building activities

Findings from the analysis of the extent of participation in capacity-building activities revealed a shared commitment to enhancing asset recovery systems. Countries prioritized technical assistance on the following themes: improving the operational capacity for asset investigation and asset tracing, delivering targeted training, and fostering coordination at both regional and national levels. Most countries implemented technical and operational training programs covering financial investigations, asset tracing, non-conviction-based forfeiture, mutual legal assistance, blockchain and digital forensics, asset management, and international cooperation. Technical assistance was primarily delivered directly by experts from the donor countries or through regional and global asset recovery networks and international organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Center on Asset Recovery (ICAR).

b) Outcome of the evaluation of the impact of capacity building

While formal evaluation of capacity-building programs is often limited, some countries have structured monitoring and evaluation frameworks, while others do not. On average, the topics most sought after by recipients were financial investigation and forensic techniques (16.9%); international cooperation and processing of MLA requests (16.7%) and asset tracing, freezing

¹ Some of the countries, namely Ireland, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, and Portugal are not G20 member countries but were invited to participate in the meetings. Spain is permanently invited to the G20. Some of the donor countries provided technical assistance through international or regional organizations, as well as specialised institutions.

and management (14.6%). Responses indicate an emerging trend towards improving the application of digital tools and skills in digital forensics, AI and blockchain analytics in investigations. Although the use of new technology was treated separately as an emerging area, it was also captured under forensic techniques with high demand from recipient countries. Additionally, it is important to note that African countries have highlighted that they continue to struggle to initiate and sustain transnational asset recovery cases.

c) Challenges and gaps

Key challenges identified by recipients and donor countries based on the evaluation report were insufficient funding and resources, delays in responses to international cooperation and MLA requests, limited legal or institutional frameworks, retention of skilled personnel, skills gap in the use of emerging technology and need for more practical case handling or peer learning, lack of tailored training programs addressing specific country needs, lack of political will and limited regional presence of service providers which has impact on deeper contextual engagement.

d) Practices/impact from evaluation reports

Best practices were drawn from evaluation reports provided by countries. They provide an indication of an evidence-based impact. Norway shared that the support to the UNODC on the “Accelerate the Implementation of UNCAC” project demonstrated significant impact by delivering on programs that align with the needs of the countries. It also reported that its support to ICAR’s led to significant impact in developing and transitional countries and improved their capability to facilitate mutual legal assistance (MLA) requests. Examples of technical assistance provided by countries on asset recovery reflect that each country deployed tailored strategies that have significantly increased recipient nations' capacities. Detailed information is provided below.

e) Recommendations

Most countries recommended the strengthening of legal frameworks, regular coordination among capacity-building providers, more flexible and tailored training, enhanced application of technology, better inter-agency coordination, creation of specialized asset recovery units, and improved information sharing platforms. Priority areas recommended for replication include advanced digital forensics, blockchain and crypto investigations, asset management systems, forensic accounting, AI and data analytics, operational mentorship, and case-based peer learning. The need for enhanced coordination among donors, networks, and national authorities to avoid duplication and ensure resources are well targeted was highlighted, as well as advocacy for transparent outcome reporting, sustainable funding, and institutionalization of training programs. The relevance of practical case support, mentorship and TOT programs for recipient countries were also highlighted. Specific recommendations for International Organizations include the need for them to strengthen coordination among capacity-building providers to avoid duplication, supporting development of training institutions and certification programs, as well as fostering peer learning and informal cooperation. Other recommendations for G20 underscore the need to enhance direct agency-to-agency cooperation, funding advanced training on emerging challenges like digital assets, and mobilizing political will and resources to sustain effective asset recovery infrastructures.

To support the African Union (AU) and the AU Advisory Body on Corruption (AU ABC), this report recommends capacity building for anti-corruption and asset recovery management agencies in Africa to adopt and implement non-conviction-based asset forfeiture and to equip civil society organizations (CSOs) to monitor asset recovery processes.

Overall, the findings from the analysis show that cooperation among donor and recipient countries is required to ensure that technical support achieves the goal of a transparent, accountable, and effective asset recovery system, which would in turn assist countries to meet the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. INTRODUCTION

Corruption is a widespread and complex phenomenon that erodes the integrity of governance, legal and institutional systems, disrupts fair market dynamics and investment opportunities, and diminishes public confidence and trust in governmental institutions. Corruption and economic crimes frequently span multiple countries, with illicit funds often transferred across borders and concealed in foreign financial systems. This underscores the critical need for coordinated international policies and cross-border collaboration to effectively combat these global threats and recover the illicit funds².

To tackle corruption, illicit financial flows, and stem money laundering, more than 192 countries have ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)³ In addition to other international and regional legal instruments⁴, and the global standards against money laundering of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)⁵, the UNCAC provides for the recovery and return of stolen assets as a fundamental pillar of the global anti-corruption framework⁶.

Returning confiscated assets to their legitimate owners is a core principle of UNCAC, which calls on States Parties to offer broad cooperation and support in the identification, tracing, freezing, and confiscation of stolen assets⁷. Establishing a strong and efficient system for repatriating criminal proceeds, especially those held abroad, is vital to curbing and deterring corrupt practices. This measure not only strips offenders of their illicit gains but also disrupts the cycle of money laundering and retooling of stolen funds. These recovered funds can be

² United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC, 2003), Chapter V provides for international collaboration in tracing, freezing, confiscating, and returning illicit assets that have crossed borders due to corruption or economic crimes. It reflects the global nature of these offenses and the necessity of coordinated efforts among nations. See United Nations (2003) 'United Nations Convention Against Corruption'. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/Publications/Convention/08-50026_E.pdf.

³ *UNCAC Signature and Ratification Status*, United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/corruption/en/uncac/ratification-status.html> (Accessed: 7 October 2025).

⁴ United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (UNTOC) (2000). Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html> (Accessed 4 September 2025)

Vienna Convention on Law of Treaties (1966). Available at: https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/1_1_1969.pdf (Accessed 4 September 2025)

⁵ Financial Action Task Force (FATF) (2025) About Us Available at: <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/home.html> (Accessed 4th September 2025).

⁶ Ibid. Chapter V of UNCAC.

⁷ Ibid.

reinvested into national economies, fuelling development initiatives that drive growth and enhance living conditions⁸.

The ACWG has, in recent years, adopted the *High-Level Principles on Cooperation with Persons Sought for Corruption and Asset Recovery (2016)*⁹ and the *High-Level Principles on Strengthening Asset Recovery Mechanisms for Combating Corruption (2023)*¹⁰. The G20 members remain committed to the strengthening of asset recovery efforts. Although the G20 High-Level Principles are not legally binding for member countries, they serve as valuable guidance for advancing anti-corruption efforts. These principles support the effective implementation of the UNCAC and other relevant legal frameworks and international standards.

In 2017, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group endorsed Brazil's initiative to chart the G20's international assistance landscape. The G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan (2019-2021)¹¹ defines a mandate for further work in this area, through the targeted action to “*tackle financial crime related to corruption, including tackling money laundering and recovering stolen assets to strengthen international cooperation*”. In 2020, the focus has included principles addressing international cooperation and asset recovery¹². Combating corruption through international collaboration continues to be a top priority for the G20. The G20 Leaders' statements and anti-corruption action plans consistently reinforce their dedication to work together across borders. This includes efforts to locate and prosecute individuals involved in corruption, recover stolen assets, provide mutual legal assistance and extradition, and prevent corrupt actors and their accomplices from finding refuge in member countries¹³.

In the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2025–2027¹⁴, member countries reaffirmed the importance of robust, efficient, and adaptable international cooperation in mutual legal assistance, aligned with the UNCAC, particularly in the areas of asset recovery and return. They also committed to tackling persistent challenges in combating corruption, including enhancing their ability to fully meet international obligations. Additionally, G20 countries acknowledged

⁸ Bostwick L. et al (2023). Managing Seized and Confiscated Assets: A Guide for Practitioners International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank 1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20433 Available at: <https://star.worldbank.org/publications/managing-seized-and-confiscated-assets-guide-practitioners> (Accessed 4th Sept 2025)

⁹ G20 (2016) “High-Level Principles on Cooperation with Persons Sought for Corruption and Asset Recovery”, endorsed under the G20 China Presidency at the Hangzhou Summit Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/G20-Anti-Corruption-Resources/Thematic-Areas/International-Cooperation/High_Level_Principles_on_Cooperation_on_Persons_Sought_for_Corruption_and_Asset_Recovery_2016.pdf (Accessed 4th Sept 2025)

¹⁰ Ibid footnote 8

¹¹ G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2019-2021 Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/G20-Anti-Corruption-Resources/Action-Plans-and-Implementation-Plans/2018_G20_ACWG_Action_Plan_2019-2021.pdf (Accessed 4th Sept 2025)

¹² Ibid. See the G20 (2020) Action on International Cooperation on Corruption and Economic Crimes, Offenders and Recovery of Stolen Assets that set out the work of the G20 leadership for the 2019-2021 mandate.

¹³ Research Centre on International Cooperation Regarding Persons Sought for Corruption and Asset Recovery in G20 Member States (no date). Available at: <https://nazaha.gov.sa/Media/Posts/Establishment%20by%20China%20of%20a%20Research%20Center%20on%20International%20Cooperation%20Regarding%20Persons%20Sought%20for%20Corruption%20and%20Asset%20Recovery%20in%20G20%20member%20states.pdf> (Accessed 4th Sept 2025)

¹⁴ G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Action Plan 2025-2027 Available at: https://track.unodc.org/uploads/documents/corruption/G20-Anti-Corruption-Resources/Action-Plans-and-Implementation-Plans/2024_G20_Brazil_ACWG_Action_Plan_2025-2027.pdf (Accessed 4th Sept 2025)

the potential to pursue alternative asset recovery methods, such as direct recovery mechanisms outlined in Article 53 of UNCAC.

Despite these commitments, many countries continue to encounter significant hurdles in establishing effective asset recovery systems. Recovering illicit assets poses certain difficulties for many countries due to the complexity of navigating diverse legal systems and cross-border jurisdictions, each with its own procedures for tracing, freezing, confiscating, and returning criminal proceeds. The United Nations General Assembly's Special Session against Corruption emphasized the need for States Parties to eliminate obstacles to asset recovery, particularly by streamlining legal processes in line with domestic legislation¹⁵.

As highlighted in UNODC's thematic reports on Chapter V of UNCAC¹⁶, many States lack sufficient experience in mutual legal assistance and asset recovery, compounded by limited financial resources, institutional capacity, and operational expertise. Additionally, limited resources such as insufficiently skilled personnel, inadequate technology, and financial constraints further hinder effective asset recovery efforts.

To overcome these barriers, it is essential to enhance both institutional and operational capacity. This includes providing targeted technical assistance to improve the identification, management, and return of seized and confiscated assets. This technical report presents an examination of the landscape of technical assistance to enhance asset recovery, highlighting key challenges and proposing recommendations to enhance legal systems, institutional effectiveness, and cross-border cooperation. By leveraging insights from real-world experiences from various countries, it aims to aid countries with the tools and strategies needed to develop more robust asset recovery systems. As part of these efforts, member countries were asked to submit details about their existing and technical assistance activities using a standardized questionnaire.

This report sets out the impact of the technical support provided by the *African Union* and members of the G20 ACWG, including *Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom*.

The South African G20 Presidency is committed to improving on the G20 Nine Key Principles¹⁷ by drafting a *G20 High-Level Principles on the Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets Linked to Corruption and a Report on Technical Assistance on Asset Recovery*.

¹⁵ UNGASS (2021) Special Session of the General Assembly against Corruption. Available at: <https://ungass2021.unodc.org/ungass2021/index.html> (Accessed 4th Sept 2025).

¹⁶ United Nations Conference of State Parties (2023) Resolution 10/5 (CAC/COSP/2023/5). Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session10/CAC-COSP-2023-5/2319298E.pdf> (Accessed 3rd Sept 2025).

¹⁷ G20 (2011), "Nine Key Principles on Asset Recovery" Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/G20-Anti-Corruption-Resources/Thematic-Areas/Asset-Recovery/Nine_Key_Principles_on_Asset_Recovery_2011.pdf. (Accessed 4th Sept 2025) Other related actions taken by the G20 include the following commitments: G20 (2020) "Action on International Cooperation on Corruption and Economic Crimes, Offenders and Recovery of Stolen Assets"; G20 (2012) 'Common Principles for Action: Denial of Safe Haven' published under the Mexico Presidency; G20 (2013) "High-Level Principles on Mutual Legal Assistance", published under the Russian Presidency; G20 (2012, 2017) "Asset Tracing Country Profiles"; G20 (2014) "Step by Step Guide on Asset Recovery".

¹⁷ G20 (2023) High-Level Principles on Strengthening Asset Recovery Mechanisms for Combating Corruption. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/G20-Anti-Corruption-Resources/Principles/2023_G20_High-

3. OBJECTIVES

Most G20 member countries have substantial experience and specialized knowledge in the field of asset recovery. Enhancing initiatives to transfer this expertise to developing countries could support those in need of guidance and capacity-building in asset recovery and management, close loopholes, and ensure that funds are returned from safe havens. This report aims to analyse the global landscape on technical assistance to enhance asset recovery including legal and institutional frameworks that support capacity-building, identify key challenges faced by States in building capacity for tracing, freezing, confiscating, and returning stolen assets, identify major training required for an effective and efficient process and provide actionable recommendations to strengthen laws, build capacity, and improve cooperation.

The report also seeks to support the South African G20 Presidency in building on Brazil's proposal on the mapping of international assistance provisions and produce a follow-up report on technical assistance provisions, which will include tangible proposals for future capacity building.

4. OVERVIEW OF KEY STANDARDS

4.1. Nine Key Principles on Asset Recovery (2011)

The 2011 Nine Key Principles on Asset Recovery provide a foundational policy framework designed to strengthen global efforts against corruption and ensure that stolen assets are effectively traced, recovered, and returned. The principles provide a roadmap for making asset recovery a policy priority within anti-corruption strategies while emphasizing the need to empower authorities with resources. It encourages countries to adopt preventive measures such as beneficial ownership transparency, the monitoring of politically exposed persons (PEP) and to ensure that there are rapid systems to trace and freeze illicit assets. Countries are urged to allow diverse recovery mechanisms, including non-conviction-based confiscation, and to strengthen laws that enable international cooperation. Institutionally, the framework calls for specialized asset recovery teams, active participation in global cooperation networks, and technical assistance—particularly for developing countries. Finally, it highlights the need for systematic data collection and information sharing to track cases and share lessons learned.

The nine Principles cover policy, legislative, and institutional requirements¹⁸:

Principle 1: Make asset recovery and return a policy priority and align resources to support the policy.

Principle 2: Strengthen preventive measures against proceeds of corruption consistent with FATF recommendations.

Principle 3: Set up tools to rapidly locate and freeze assets.

[Level Principles on Strengthening Asset Recovery Mechanisms for Combatting Corruption.pdf](#) (Accessed 4th Sept 2025)

¹⁸ Ibid.

Principle 4: Establish a wide range of options for asset recovery.

Principle 5: Adopt laws that encourage and facilitate international cooperation.

Principle 6: Create specialized asset recovery teams such as a kleptocracy unit.

Principle 7: Actively participate in international cooperation networks.

Principle 8: Provide technical assistance to developing countries.

Principle 9: Collect data on cases and share information on impact and results.

4.2 High-Level Principles on Cooperation on Persons Sought for Corruption and Asset Recovery (2016)

The 2016 High-Level Principles on Cooperation on Persons Sought for Corruption and Asset Recovery expand global efforts to combat corruption by focusing on zero tolerance, zero loopholes, and zero barriers. They call on states to deny safe haven to corrupt actors and illicit assets, recognizing the importance of strong international law enforcement and mutual legal assistance. Countries are urged to establish effective procedures, review immigration systems, and ensure strong domestic coordination among authorities for detection, investigation, prosecution, and recovery efforts.

The framework underscores the need for a robust legal cooperation system built on UNCAC and complemented by instruments like UNTOC and the Council of Europe Convention on Money Laundering, Search, Seizure, and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (OECD Convention, 2005)¹⁹ while encouraging universal UNCAC ratification. It also promotes seamless communication through designated contact points and networks, as well as multilateral and bilateral arrangements to support case-specific cooperation. It emphasizes coordinated law enforcement to track and engage fugitives, a renewed commitment to asset recovery as a core UNCAC principle and strengthened mechanisms for returning stolen assets. The principles stress the importance of capacity building, ethics, and knowledge-sharing, urging collaboration with international and regional bodies to enhance long-term institutional resilience.

The 10 principles are structured around three strategic pillars: (Zero Tolerance, Zero Loopholes, and Zero Barriers) and are summarised below²⁰. They include:

I. Our Stance: Zero Tolerance

Principle 1: Work towards denying safe haven to persons sought for corruption and proceeds of their crimes

¹⁹ Council of Europe (2005) *Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure, and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism*. Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list> (Accessed: 14 February 2025).

²⁰ Ibid.

Principle 2: Recognize the value of international law enforcement cooperation and mutual legal assistance

II. Our Institutions: Zero Loopholes

Principle 3: Establish effective procedures for denying safe haven to persons sought for corruption

Principle 4: Recognize the utility of domestic coordination mechanisms between relevant authorities

Principle 5: Support effective international cooperation based on UNCAC and other legal frameworks

III. Our Objectives: Zero Barriers

Principle 6: Acknowledge the need for effective communication and cooperation between competent authorities

Principle 7: Encourage multilateral and bilateral collaboration against corruption with designated competent authorities

Principle 8: Encourage coordination between law enforcement authorities to establish contact with persons sought

Principle 9: Reaffirm asset recovery as a fundamental principle of UNCAC and commit to Chapter V implementation

Principle 10: Enhance capacity building, institutional values, ethics, and experience-sharing

4.3. High-Level Principles (HLP) on Strengthening Asset Recovery Mechanisms for Combating Corruption (2023)

The 2023 HLPs place asset recovery and the return of illicit funds at the centre of anti-corruption strategies by calling for sufficient financial, human, and technical resources, faster internal procedures, and proper monitoring systems. They enhance the ability of authorities to trace assets quickly by establishing focal points, using beneficial ownership registers, and strengthening engagement in international cooperation platforms. To stop the movement of illicit wealth, they stress the importance of swift freezing, seizure, and management of assets pending judicial decisions. A wide toolkit of legal options is recommended, including non-conviction-based confiscation, value-based freezing, confiscation from non-legitimate third parties, recognition of foreign rulings, and negotiated settlements. Effective cross-border collaboration is emphasized through timely consultations, flexible application of dual criminality, and open dialogue to resolve differences. The framework also encourages better use of both open-source and confidential information, supported by ownership verification systems and reliable authentication methods, to improve transparency and speed up recovery processes.

The six Principles²¹ include: Enhanced domestic coordination, statistics collection; Designated focal points, beneficial ownership registers; Provisional measures, enhanced freezing mechanisms; non-conviction-based confiscation, value-based recovery; improved communication channels, dual criminality interpretation and Proactive information sharing, public domain resources.

5. ANALYSIS OF COUNTRIES' RESPONSES: METHODOLOGY

As noted in the previous section, the African Union and the G20 ACWG members responded to the questionnaires on the impact of technical assistance provided to countries and international organizations. *The questionnaire is divided into six sections, a) participation in capacity building activities; b) effectiveness evaluation and assessment of capacity building; c) challenges and gaps, d) recommendations and future needs; and e) additional comments.* This report is presented based on the structure of the questionnaire. The detailed responses are provided in **Annex 1** and can be assessed for detailed review. The analysis in this report is a summarised presentation of the technical support identified as key priorities in enhancing the capabilities of transition and developing countries to identify, trace, and confiscated assets, and to ensure return to original owners.

5.1. Participation in Capacity Building Activities

Questions

1. Has your country or organization participated in capacity-building initiatives related to asset recovery over the past five years?
2. If yes, please provide details about these initiatives. In particular, please describe any innovative or impactful programmes you have implemented or benefited from.
3. For recipients: What are the specific objectives your country seeks to achieve through asset recovery capacity-building and knowledge-sharing efforts? Please select those that are applicable.
4. For providers: What are the primary areas of focus for the capacity-building your organization/country provides in asset recovery?
5. How do you identify capacity-building needs (e.g. needs assessment, consultations between recipient and provider, use of findings by peer review mechanisms)?
6. How do you ensure coordination between different capacity-building providers and initiatives, to ensure your capacity-building initiatives are effective and do not duplicate other initiatives?
7. Are there any other means of cooperation and assistance your country offers that can increase the efficiency of asset recovery processes (e.g. posting liaison officers abroad, regular

²¹ Ibid.

coordination meetings with requesting States, multilingual guidance materials, offering to litigate cases before domestic courts on behalf of a foreign State, participating in initiatives such as the African Union Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum and the GFAR Action Series)?

The questions in section one focused on the issues of capacity building, training needs assessment, and prioritization of technical support. The responses reflect a demonstrated commitment to support issues of capacity building. Responses to Question 1 indicated that seven countries participated as recipients of technical assistance in the training programmes²², while thirteen countries²³ provided training support and funding to international or regional organizations to support technical assistance for developing countries.

Based on the responses to question 2, the areas of the technical assistance included programmes to improve operational capacity in the investigation and tracing of assets, delivery of training, coordination and cooperation at the regional and national levels and assisting with skeleton drafts to improve legislation, confiscation and prosecution strategies .

. Most countries delivered operational and technical training, including training on financial investigation, asset tracing, non-conviction-based forfeiture, mutual legal assistance requests, blockchain and digital forensics, asset management, international cooperation, regional or global network participation.

Responses to questions 3 and 4 showed that most of the countries were interested in supporting regulatory and institutional frameworks, and information sharing to improve international cooperation in asset recovery and return. Donor countries also supported the organization of joint workshops, coordination of training using regional bodies, and support to international networks for continuous knowledge sharing. The technical partners that provided most of the identified training included the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN), Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR), Asset Recovery Inter-agency Networks (ARINs) and the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) initiative.

In response to question 5, most countries noted that they identified training needs through evaluation of staff capacity, mutual evaluation reports conducted by FATF, dialogue with UNODC and other partners. Some pointed out that they undertake appraisal missions, peer review, strategic assessments, and develop action plans jointly with national and regional counterparts, where priority projects are identified and tailored to the needs of the recipients.

With regard to question 6 on donor coordination, some countries noted that they undertake regular dialogue with other donors, mapping of existing technical assistance to ensure complementarity to avoid duplication and to identify capacity gaps. Some countries rely on international organizations such as UNODC and ICAR to undertake needs assessment based on the requirements in UNCAC self-assessment reports and FATF mutual evaluation reports.

²² African Union participated as a regional body and is a donor as well as recipient of development fund. Brazil, Indonesia, Ireland, Netherlands, Nigeria, Turkey were recipients of technical assistance. Saudi Arabia is a donor as well as recipient of technical assistance.

²³ Australia, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom.

Table A reflects where most training or support was provided as well as the partners that provided or funded the provision of the technical assistance²⁴.

Table A: Top types of Training/Areas of Support from the Responses

Recipient/ Donor	African Union and G20 ACWG members	Strengthen Legal/Reg ulatory	Improve Operational Capacity/Peer Learning	Deliver Training	Coordination and Cooperation	Subject Matter/Thematic Areas of Support	Regional /International Partners
	African Union						
Recipient/D onor to member countries		√	√	√	√	Asset freezing, repatriation, beneficial ownership, and mutual legal assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNODC • StAR Initiative • AU Member States' national anti-corruption agencies and National Prosecution Agencies • Basel Institute • Embassies • Inter-governmental agencies • Regional economic communities • Civil society organizations (CSOs) • Ministries of Justice • Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs)
	Australia						
Donor		√	√	√		Conviction and non-conviction based asset confiscation, including support for identification, tracing, restraint and forfeiture of proceeds and instruments of crime; legislative drafting support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) • Asia-Pacific Interagency • Asset Recovery Network (ARIN-AP) • Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network (CARIN) • Pacific Islands Law Officers Network (PILON) • UNODC • Fiji Office of the Public Prosecution • AFP Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce (CACT) • Various law enforcement agencies in Pacific Island nations • Partners from Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Tonga
	Brazil						
Recipient						Value-based confiscation; non-conviction-based (NCB) proceedings; tax and financial crimes; Crypto-assets,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICAR/Basel Institute • STAR Initiative • ICAC (Hong Kong) • OECD Tax Academy
	China						
Donor		√			√	BRI anti-corruption training; UNCAC implementation support; use of big data; AI for evidence collection; international cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNODC • GlobE Network • G20 • APEC • BRICS • Multi-lateral organizations including Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)
	France						
Donor		√			√	Criminal asset recovery framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNODC regional platforms to fast track UNCAC implementation in for West Africa and the Sahel, and in the Western Balkans • Expertise France • OECD Anti-Corruption Task Team (ACTT) • Team Europe Democracy Initiative • EU institutions including Eurojust and BEPI
	Germany						
Donor			√			Virtual assets tracing; conviction and non-conviction based asset recovery; administrative and civil litigation; confiscation; Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in asset recovery; Mutual legal assistance frameworks; Cross-border informal information exchange, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpol • African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AU-ABC) • International financial and law enforcement experts • Asset Recovery Interagency Networks (ARINs) • Various ARIN member countries

²⁴ The mark (√) in the table represents the presence or actual delivery of training or support on the subject matters at the top of the column.

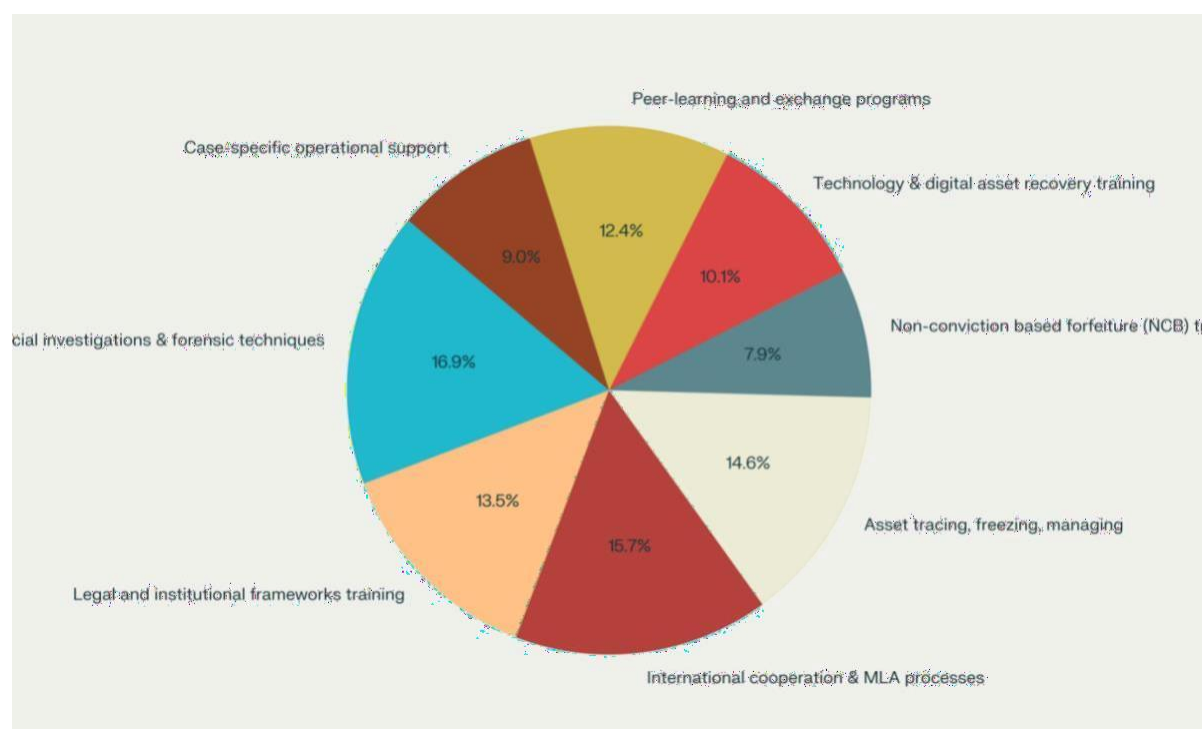
						financial investigation methodologies; Asset management.	
	India						
Recipient						forensic techniques, blockchain analysis, mutual legal assistance (MLA) drafting, case support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank StAR Initiative OECD Academy for Tax and Financial Crime Investigation APG Technical Assistance & Training Forum ARIN-AP Asset Recovery Training Globe Network UNODC's Bali Process
	Indonesia						
Recipient			√			Financial investigation, Asset recovery related to environmental crimes, Crypto asset Investigation, property management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basel Institute on Governance Interpol UNODC Indonesian FIU (PPATK) US DOJ OPDAT FBI Various foreign agencies (Kenya, Ethiopia, Malaysia)
	Ireland						
Donor			√			Investigating and preventing corruption, Informal cooperation mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEPOL Various countries participating in anti-corruption training
	Italy						
Donor		√			√	Anti-Money Laundering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latin American and Caribbean countries European Union regional programs (EL PACCTO, COPOLAD) IILA (Italian-Latin American Organization) International Development Law Organization (IDLO) Parliamentary and judicial bodies in Latin America and Caribbean
	Japan						
Donor		√	√	√	√	<u>Anti-Money Laundering</u> <u>UNCAC implementation support</u> <u>Financial Investigation</u> <u>Asset freezing, confiscation, and recovery</u> <u>Digital Forensics</u> <u>Crypto assets</u> <u>Blockchain analysis</u> <u>Mutual legal assistance (MLA)</u> <u>International Cooperation</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNODC OECD Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) ARIN-AP
	Netherlands						
Donor		√			√	legislative drafting input, asset return policy development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARIN EU-ARO network Dutch Police ARO, Judicial ARO, and AMO Legal practitioners in legislative drafting
	Nigeria						
Recipient		√			√	Cross-border investigation, AML and financial crimes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNODC Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CODA) Network of Anticorruption Institutions in West Africa (NACIWA) Global Operational Network of Anticorruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE) African Union Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR)
	Norway						
Donor		√	√			Asset recovery Transnational financial crime investigations and prosecutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basel Institute on Governance / ICAR UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery Program (STAR) Initiative Corruption Hunters Network
	Portugal						
Donor					√	Tax recovery and financial investigation. Needs assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Europol Interpol CARIN EU Member States and Third Countries European Commission's FISCALIS Program Guardia di Finanza (Italy)
	Russia						

Recipient/Donor				√		Financial monitoring, asset recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) UNODC Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering (EAG) ITMCFM (International Training and Methodology Centre of Financial Monitoring) Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
	Saudia Arabia						
Donor/Recipient				√	√	Digital forensic and asset recovery training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption (HKIAAC) Independent Commission Against Corruption, Hong Kong (ICAC) UNODC's Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) World Bank Group Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Nigeria) Middle East and North Africa Asset Recovery Network (MENA-ARIN)
	South Africa						
Recipient				√		Financial investigation training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa (ARINSA) University of Cape Town (for training programs)
	Spain						
Donor				√	√	Financial investigations and money laundering. Tracing, freezing and confiscation of illicit assets. Strengthening of inter-agency cooperation. Asset tracing. Confiscation. International MLA support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FIAP (Foundation for the Internationalisation of Public Administration) EU institutions Spanish Guardia Civil, Policia Nacional, Public Prosecutor's Office UNODC (GlobE Network and World Bank's StAR Initiative) Financial Action Task Force (FATF) GAFILAT (Latin American Financial Action Task Force) COMJIB (Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries) AIAMP (Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors) Ibero-American Registry Network (IBEROREG) Eurojust, Europol Interpol CARIN Egmont Group OECD Working Group on Bribery
	Turkey						
Recipient		√	√		√	Asset Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council of Europe Horizontal Initiative III FATF-INTERPOL Roundtable Engagements (FIRE I and FIRE II) Ministry of Justice of Turkey
	United Kingdom						
Donor			√			Asset recovery, Mutual Legal Assistance, International Cooperation, Countering Illicit finance, working with civil society, international cooperation and knowledge exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deloitte (for European Illicit Finance Capacity Development Project) International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC) International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) World Bank StAR Initiative Regional initiatives in Caribbean and Western Balkans UKCA International Anti-Corruption Capacity Building Project African countries and other global partners The Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) (Nigeria Illicit Finance Resilience project) UNODC for the UNODC Illicit Finance and Anti Corruption Road map in Western Balkans AIRE Centre

Figure A shows the percentage of the types of training and technical assistance provided by donors or attended by recipients from the responses. They include:

- Financial investigations and asset recovery processes, including tracing, freezing, seizing, and confiscating illicit assets.
- Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) and international cooperation mechanisms.
- Technical skills in financial forensics, forensic accounting, data analytics, blockchain and cryptocurrency investigations.
- Workshops, seminars, and capacity-building programs focusing on non-conviction-based forfeiture (NCBF), asset management, and asset return policies.
- Practitioner networks and inter-agency cooperation forums such as ARINs, CARIN, GlobE Network, UNODC initiatives, and regional asset recovery forums.
- Specialized training programs combining policy, operational, and technical assistance, including case-based mentoring and TOT.
- Digital tools and technology integration for asset tracking and forensic investigations, including AI and blockchain analytics.

Figure A: Types of training provided or attended by countries



In response to question 7, countries such as Australia, China, India, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the UK emphasized technical assistance on multi-agency collaboration, peer mentoring, and specialized asset recovery teams, while other countries emphasized that they provided technical assistance on emerging topics such as cryptocurrency investigation and AI-driven analytics. Several countries serve as both providers and recipients of technical assistance in asset recovery, capacity building, and anti-corruption efforts.

Brazil plays part as a recipient, enhancing its capacity through initiatives like *the OECD Tax Academy courses, ICAC Training, Value-Based Confiscation, and the ICAR Program on Non-Conviction Based Proceedings*. These programs emphasize the development of practical skills in asset recovery investigations and the reinforcement of the statutory framework. **India** is a provider and a recipient that is actively involved. The World Bank's StAR Initiative's Asset Recovery Workshops are its main activity, and it also builds capacity in financial investigations, asset recovery tracing, confiscations, and beneficial ownership identification through a variety of training platforms, including the *OECD Academy, ARIN-AP, and GlobE Network*.

Australia provides technical assistance with several initiatives, including through the *Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) Asset Confiscation Mentoring, Asia-Pacific Interagency Asset Recovery Network (ARIN-AP), the Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network (CARIN), Criminal Assets Confiscation Proceeds of Crime Program (POCIP), and practical training with the AFP CACT & Fiji ODPP Training on Asset Confiscation*. They also engage in regional cooperation activities such as *PILON Workshops* and the *UNODC Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) workshop*.

Furthermore, **France** stated that it provided funding and expert personnel as part of the *UNODC Fast-track UNCAC Regional Platforms for West Africa, the Sahel, and the Western Balkans*. Enhancing legal frameworks and creating networks for asset seizure and confiscation are the main goals of bilateral exchanges with Côte d'Ivoire and Ukraine. **China** highlights that it annually provides anti-corruption training under the *BRI Anti-Corruption Training Program*, supports the UNCAC implementation initiative along the Silk Road Economic Belt, and hosts specialized asset recovery training through Hong Kong's ICAC in collaboration with international bodies such as the GlobE Network. **Germany** supports peer learning and regional cooperation through initiatives like *Interpol Silver Notice Mechanism Workshops, Asset Recovery Interagency Networks (ARIN Talks), and active engagement with the African Union Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum and CAPAR*. Also, **South Africa** serves as both a recipient and provider of technical assistance through programs like the *UNODC Prosecutor Placement Programme* and manages the *Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa (ARINSA)* to enhance legal cooperation and capacity building in the region.

Italy leads several regional cooperation initiatives that focus on judicial collaboration, asset recovery, and the reduction of organized crime in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Balkans. These initiatives include the *Falcone-Borsellino Program, PAESCA, PLAN DE APOYO, EL PACCTO 2.0, and COPOLAD*. **Indonesia** has focused on initiatives like asset recovery, sharing sessions and national anti-corruption and financial crime training programs with international partnerships, for instance, UNODC and GlobE Network. **Ireland** provides law enforcement skill-building training, such as the Investigating and Preventing Corruption Course, which is organized under *CEPOL*. In addition to supporting regional initiatives that promote transparency and asset recovery competence, **Japan** notes that it organizes international training courses such as the *UNAFEI 187th International Training Course* in 2025 focusing on current challenges and effective countermeasures in the fight against money laundering and its 188th International Training Course in 2026 focusing on countermeasures against cybercrime and crimes involving misuse of virtual assets such as cryptocurrencies.

Spain offers broad assistance through *FIAP-led Programs*, including *EU-ACT, SECFIN, A-TIPSON, EUROFRONT, and COPOLAD*, and organises seminars on money laundering and organized crime that include judicial training, inter-agency cooperation, and legislative reform

support, involving extensive regional participation and with the collaboration of the Guardia Civil, National Police, the Spanish Public Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Interior. These efforts also include regional training cycles—such as the specialized program developed at the Spanish Cooperation Training Center in Montevideo and subsequent training courses aimed at building an Ibero-American Memory on money laundering. These initiatives have built joint investigation teams, established protocols for mutual legal assistance, and produced best practice guides, benefiting authorities across multiple regions. Spain's approach illustrates how enduring partnerships and structured knowledge sharing drive progress in transnational financial crime prevention.

The **Russian Federation** serves as a provider primarily through the *BRICS Presidency Asset Recovery Priority*, *UNODC Workshops on UNCAC Implementation*, and trainings by the *ITMCFM* focused on financial investigations and legal regulation studies.

Portugal led initiatives such as *Europol Project A.S.S.E.T.*, *Interpol Silver Notice Diffusion Pilot*, *Forum of Asset Management Offices*, and the *FISCALIS Program* geared toward cross-border cooperation on asset tracking and seizure. **Türkiye** has facilitated forums like the *First Learning and Development Forum on Asset Recovery* alongside international workshops to support regional capacity building. The **Netherlands** contributes by presenting on asset recovery office establishment, supporting CARIN network activities and knowledge sharing among member countries. **Saudi Arabia** provides hands-on training through programs by *HKIAAC* and *Nazaha*, focusing on forensic techniques and international asset recovery cooperation with countries like Nigeria.

The **African Union (AU)** – a **regional organization** - offers assistance through technical briefings to member states, peer-learning joint trainings on asset freezing and repatriation, and supports anti-corruption agencies and regional economic communities with regular missions and case support via programs aligned to continental instruments like CAPAR.

5.2 Effectiveness, Evaluations and Assessments of Capacity-Building Efforts

5.2.1. Questions

8. For recipients: Has your country conducted evaluations or assessments of capacity-building received for asset recovery purposes?

9. If yes, please summarize the findings of these evaluations, including any (measurable) outcomes, lessons learned, or challenges identified.

10. For providers: Do you conduct evaluations or assessments of the capacity-building activities you provide?

11. If yes, please provide details about your evaluation processes and any key findings, outcomes or challenges identified.

12. For recipients: Please evaluate the effectiveness of the capacity-building your country has received in asset recovery.

13. For providers: Based on the rating/evaluation conducted by the recipients, or based on your own evaluation, please rate the effectiveness of the capacity-building your organization/country provides in achieving asset recovery outcomes.
14. Please provide an explanation regarding the level of impact you have indicated.
15. For recipients: Please evaluate the effectiveness of the capacity-building your country has received in asset recovery.
16. For providers: Based on the rating/evaluation conducted by the recipients, or based on your own evaluation, please rate the effectiveness of the capacity-building your organization/country provides in achieving asset recovery outcomes.
17. Please provide an explanation regarding the level of impact you have indicated.

Section two explored the questions on how effective the training, technical support and coordination have been and the impact on recipients or providers²⁵.

Findings showed that only ten countries²⁶ responded affirmatively to question 8, indicating that they have assessed the impact of the technical assistance provided, while seven countries responded that they have not conducted an evaluation²⁷. Nine countries did not respond to the questions under this section²⁸.

While many countries reported that their support had a practical impact, formal evaluations of capacity-building programs are often limited or partially conducted. Some countries have structured monitoring and evaluation frameworks, while others do not. Australia, China, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, and the UK reported highly impactful capacity-building outcomes. However, it was observed from the responses that measuring the long-term operational impact of technical assistance remains a challenge for most donor countries. The detailed analysis of the impact of technical assistance based on feedback from the countries that have completed an evaluation or assessment is discussed in section 7 below²⁹.

6. BEST PRACTICES/IMPACT

Despite the limited evaluation reports from countries, the analysis identified cases with high impact that could be described as best practices. The best practices were drawn from evaluation reports and provide evidence-based impact. **Norway highlighted that the mid-term evaluation report³⁰ of UNODC's "Accelerate the implementation of UNCAC"³¹ has shown that the project demonstrated strong effectiveness, especially in delivering tangible outputs that align with the needs of States parties, while operating within available resources to advance UNCAC implementation.**

²⁵ All questions and responses are set out in Annex 1.

²⁶ African Union, France, India, Saudi Arabia, Australia.

²⁷ African Union, Brazil, Indonesia, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Turkey.

²⁸ China, Germany, Italy, Nigeria, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom.

²⁹ The best practices are based on reports from evaluation or impact assessment reports.

³⁰ UNODC (n.d.) Evaluation Brief. Available at: [Mid_term_Evaluation_Brief_GLOZ99.pdf](#) (Accessed 5th September 2025)

³¹ The project commenced late 2018

Box A: Norway's Response

The UNODC's project has contributed to strengthening legal systems, shaping policies, and enhancing the capabilities of both individuals and institutions. These achievements are further amplified through strategic partnerships, advocacy efforts, and the promotion of international collaboration. A diverse range of technical assistance approaches has been employed, each customized to the specific requirements of States Parties—an integrated strategy essential for achieving the best possible outcomes.

The UNODC initiative was supported by a wide coalition of governments, international organizations, and private sector entities. Norway's support to the implementation of the International Center for Asset Recovery (ICAR) strategy (2025-2028) stands out and the evaluation showed that:

Box B: Norway's Support to ICAR

ICAR has proven to be largely effective in addressing the needs of transition and developing countries. Its technical assistance—spanning case support, Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA), training initiatives, and policy/legal guidance is widely recognized for its relevance and value. Among these, case support was reported as particularly impactful, thanks to the staff's deep technical expertise, contextual awareness, and approachability. Recipient countries acknowledged ICAR's role in facilitating MLA requests, leveraging its global network to improve the quality of draft submissions and accelerate their processing.

Norway reported that the project showed that both in-person and virtual training sessions were well-received, significantly enhancing participants' knowledge. Nonetheless, there is a growing concern about training fatigue, highlighting the importance of mapping existing programs and identifying strategic opportunities. ICAR's policy and legal advisory services have resulted in thorough evaluations across jurisdictions and the adoption of new legal instruments, thereby reinforcing legal and institutional structures. These are characterized as “soft” infrastructures by ICAR. The evaluation informed the development of ICAR's 2025–2028 strategy.³² The United Kingdom noted the impact listed below for various programs³³:

United Kingdom reported that based on recipient's positive feedback, progress has been made resulting in increased request and response to mutual legal assistance requests. The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO) also noted that providers met or exceeded results framework targets for capacity development activities.

Box C: United Kingdom's Response

International Anti-Corruption Capacity Building Project UK Conformity Assessed (UKCA): The training led to requests for Mutual Legal Assistance being submitted to the UKCA in corruption investigations. The mutual legal assistance requests still required additional refinement; however, UK was able to respond to the requests.

Box D: Germany's Response

Germany highlighted in its response the importance of tailored, diverse training modalities, such as practical case support, classroom sessions, mentorship, and TOT programs. They noted that:

The high impact of our capacity-building initiatives is driven by a combination of diverse training modalities, including classroom sessions, practical case support, mentorship, and TOT programs to ensure sustainability. These activities are customized to address the specific needs of partner countries and leverage both virtual and onsite meetings to maximize accessibility and effectiveness. Since we have programs at global, regional and country levels, the presence on the ground maintains close engagement with partners, continuously adapting to evolving priorities and fostering trustful cooperation. This tailored, flexible approach enhances knowledge transfer, strengthens institutional capacities, and ultimately contributes to more effective asset recovery outcomes

Germany contributes to other countries by supporting mechanisms that enhance international cooperation, such as the Interpol Silver Notice for tracing assets and promoting peer learning through Asset Recovery Interagency Networks. Its active participation in African Union forums ensures continental harmonization and shared capacity building, advancing coordinated asset recovery efforts. These initiatives have fostered timely information exchange and amplified cross-border collaboration, reinforcing the operational effectiveness of asset recovery practitioners.

In Spain, evaluation reports reflected the following impact³², FIAP (Foundation for the Internationalisation of Public Administration) capacity-building efforts led to concrete institutional improvements and knowledge transfer. The National Police's efforts to raise awareness and strengthen investigation capabilities in asset recovery have led to an increased rate of assets identified and seized in recent years while the Guardia Civil continuous training in asset tracking and recovery has significantly enhanced the effectiveness of our investigative efforts. Finally, the Counterterrorism and Organised Crime Intelligence Centre (CITCO) noted that, based on the needs of the requesting entity, supplying cutting-edge tools, expert know-how, and strong collaboration enhances national capacity to track, seize, and recover assets from organized crime.

³² International Centre for Asset Recovery (2025) **Operational Strategy 2025–2028**. Available at: [ICAR Operational Strategy 2025-28.v3.pdf](#) (Accessed 5th Sept 2025).

³³

European Illicit Finance Capacity Development Project, IACC UKCA capacity building project

Box E: Spain's Response (CITCO)

Based on the needs of the requesting entity, advanced tools and expert knowledge are supplied to significantly improve the country's national systems for fighting money laundering and recovering illicit assets. These resources include theoretical frameworks, technological and IT-based information, sophisticated statistical techniques, and efficient mechanisms for inter-agency collaboration, all aimed at enhancing the country's ability to trace, seize, and recover assets derived from organized crime.

India also recorded that the assessment of its capacity-building initiatives has yielded encouraging results, notably the improvement of officers' competencies in financial investigations, a deeper grasp of asset recovery techniques, and more proficient use of open-source registries and investigative tools³⁵.

Box F: India's Response

These efforts have led to measurable outcomes, such as increased success in tracing and recovering stolen assets and enhanced inter-agency collaboration. Officer trainees benefiting from these programs frequently disseminate their acquired knowledge and insights to peers through structured presentations. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) typically conducts post-program reviews to assess how well participants have absorbed and applied the training content.

Box G: Italy's Response

Italy has developed a holistic and forward-looking technical assistance framework structured around four interdependent pillars:

Capacity Building: enhancing the skills and operational capabilities of judicial and law enforcement actors, while empowering civil society and the private sector to contribute to integrity systems.

Institution Building: consolidating transparent, efficient, and accountable institutions across the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

Law Building: modernizing and harmonizing legal and regulatory frameworks to address emerging corruption and asset recovery challenges.

Consensus Building: fostering a shared culture of legality, ethics, and rule of law values to sustain reforms and societal engagement.

³⁴ Spain's response

³⁵ India's response

This comprehensive framework ensures that technical, institutional, and normative reforms are reinforced by ethical and cultural transformation, promoting durable and replicable results.

The technical assistance provided under the EL PACCTO 2.0 programme has achieved remarkable results in promoting regulatory and operational tools for asset recovery among Latin American Countries.

(1) Italy reported that the European Union's EL PACCTO 2.0 Programme has promoted the alignment of regional asset recovery guidelines of Latin-American countries with G20 and Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) standards. This proactive engagement fosters operational coherence, strengthens international coordination, and facilitates the exchange of expertise among jurisdictions. EL PACCTO 2.0 has also supported the SILVER NOTICE regional workshop in Latin America to promote the participation to the Pilot Project. After the workshop, there was a significant increase in the use of the Silver Notice in Latin America: before that, only 6 requests had been received; immediately after, the total rose to 39; to date, the region has 30 published requests (notices and diffusions), 5 in the process of conformity evaluation, and 4 exceeding the quota assigned to each country.

(2) Italy's asset recovery model has become a reference point within the G20 for its unique combination of legal innovation and social impact. Grounded in the principle that confiscated assets should be returned to society, the Italian framework ensures that such assets are reintegrated into the legal economy to serve the public good. Under Article 48 of the Anti-Mafia Code, confiscated properties may be transferred to local and regional authorities for institutional, social, or economic purposes, or assigned free of charge to non-profit organizations, cooperatives, and youth associations. The Italian Constitutional Court has further affirmed that illicit wealth must not be dissipated but converted into social and economic value for communities. This model demonstrates how asset recovery can simultaneously advance legality, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

(3) Established in 2016, the Inter-Institutional Anti-Corruption Coordination Table serves as a permanent mechanism for ensuring coherence and synergy among all national stakeholders engaged in anti-corruption and asset recovery. Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), it gathers representatives from ministries, independent authorities, law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, academia, the private sector, and civil society, all institutions. This mechanism allows for effective coordination of technical assistance requests, the sharing of good practices, and the alignment of Italy's international positions. The Table is widely recognized as a model of governance ensuring inclusiveness, consistency, and strategic direction in international anti-corruption policy.

(4) Italy plays **a leading role** in global and regional asset recovery mechanisms, including INTERPOL's Silver Notice System, whose working group is led by an Italian LEO, the Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR), and Asset Recovery Interagency Networks (ARINs). Through the European Union's EL PACCTO 2.0 Programme, Italy has also promoted the alignment of regional asset recovery guidelines with G20 and Anti-Corruption Working Group standards. This proactive engagement fosters operational coherence, strengthens international coordination, and facilitates the exchange of expertise among jurisdictions.

(5) A defining feature of Italy's approach to asset recovery is its emphasis on cultivating a culture of legality as a foundation for sustainable anti-corruption reform. Through public outreach, educational initiatives, and institutional testimonies, Italy has worked to build a shared societal consensus that integrity and legality must underpin both public and private conduct. This long-term cultural strategy complements institutional and legal reforms, ensuring that the values of transparency, accountability, and justice are deeply rooted within communities and generations.

Japan reported that the international anti-corruption training programmes for criminal justice practitioners from developing countries, which are provided by the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), established by an agreement between the United Nations and the Japanese government in 1962, and are now operated by the Japanese Ministry of Justice, are well received by the participants. UNAFEI hosts in-person, four-weeks-long annual anticorruption's training programmes which not only aim to build capacity but also seek to establish and enhance a human network of criminal justice practitioners for future international cooperation. With over 6,700 officials who have participated in these programmes, and many alumni promoted to high-ranking government positions, including in the national anticorruption agencies, this network of UNAFEI alumni has become a valuable asset in the field of international cooperation.

Additionally, some countries have provided exemplary technical assistance in anti-corruption and asset recovery, each deploying tailored strategies that have significantly increased recipient nations' capacities.

For instance, Australia's approach centres on a multi-agency model that combines policy, legislative support, and practical training. Through initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), Asia-Pacific Interagency Asset Recovery Network (ARIN-AP), and the Pacific Islands Law Officers Network (PILON), Australia offers mentoring, knowledge sharing, regional cooperation, and focused practical investigative training. Their efforts in legislative amendments and forensic investigations have empowered countries in the Pacific to modernize their frameworks, while fostering inter-agency collaboration and operational efficiency. The impact of these efforts is evident in improved asset recovery processes and strengthened regional ties, exemplifying a holistic, capacity-building methodology.

China, including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, emphasizes annual anti-corruption training programs that engage practitioners from developing countries within the Belt and Road Initiative. The Hong Kong ICAC's collaboration with international organizations delivers specialized asset recovery training, enhancing enforcement agencies' skills across jurisdictions. The technical assistance has yielded positive feedback, streamlined mutual legal assistance communications, and improved the quality of requests between China and recipient nations, highlighting the value of training combined with international cooperation.

France extends its technical assistance primarily through its support of UNODC regional platforms in West Africa, the Sahel, and the Western Balkans, directly contributing funds and expertise. These platforms facilitate the sharing of best practices and foster a collective commitment to implementing the UNCAC framework. Further, France's bilateral exchanges, including study visits for Ivorian and Ukrainian delegations, have helped these countries align their seizure and confiscation laws with international standards. This has led to the creation of expert networks that sustain ongoing cooperation and legislative enhancements, showcasing the benefit of both multilateral and bilateral engagements.

Norway's technical assistance is recognized through its close partnership with UNODC's StAR and ICAR initiatives, providing practical case advice, mentoring, and simulations to developing countries. Legal and institutional reforms receive special focus to address systemic gaps, while policy dialogues contribute to shaping global asset recovery standards. Norway's Corruption Hunters Network exemplifies effective information sharing among prosecutors, resulting in stronger anti-corruption enforcement, greater public trust, and improved recovery laws—a model of knowledge dissemination and institutional strengthening.

Portugal's contributions lie in facilitating rapid asset tracking, freezing, and seizure through programs like Europol's Project A.S.S.E.T., and in fostering best practice exchanges via forums for judicial and asset management officials. Its initiatives extend to enhancing tax recovery operations linked to asset recovery efforts, demonstrating the importance of integrating fiscal agencies within the broader recovery ecosystem. Portugal's work has resulted in significant asset identification and enhanced cross-agency cooperation, underscoring practical, results-driven collaboration.

Russia's efforts highlight a leadership role within BRICS, prioritizing asset recovery challenges, particularly regarding virtual assets. Hosting workshops on UNCAC implementation with broad international participation showcases Russia's commitment to harmonize frameworks and fostering cross-regional collaboration. Research and analytical studies on international legal regulations further raise awareness and strengthen procedural coherence. These multifaceted activities contribute to a more unified and transparent asset recovery environment within and beyond BRICS nations.

Saudi Arabia's comprehensive training programs focus on forensic investigation techniques, financial data analysis, and international networking, delivered through interactive exercises and case studies. Such immersive learning experiences have enhanced the capabilities of anti-corruption officers from participating countries, reinforcing regional and global cooperation. The impact is seen in enhanced investigative skills and stronger collaborative ties, vital for managing complex financial crime and asset recovery challenges.

The UK highlighted its participation in the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC) which is an international, multiagency team of investigators and intelligence analysts that provides dedicated operational support to grand corruption investigations. Active law enforcement officers collate intelligence and evidence to directly support corruption investigations, whilst providing case specific mentoring and case coordination for asset recovery. Any law enforcement agency or prosecuting authority in the world can refer a case to the IACCC for operational assistance, while still maintaining control of its own investigation. Impact to date has seen

- £1.8 billion – total value of suspected stolen assets identified by the IACCC.
- £641 million – total value of assets frozen on IACCC supported cases.
- £70 million - total value of assets confiscated/forfeited on IACCC supported cases.
- 380 cases – the number of referrals received by the IACCC.
- 197 intelligence reports – the number of composite intelligence reports shared by the IACCC.
- 114 ILORs – the number of MLA requests generated by affected states with IACCC assistance.

Together, these countries exemplify best practices through their holistic approaches combining capacity building, regional and international cooperation, legislative alignment, practical training, and expert networking. Their technical assistance has yielded measurable improvements in asset recovery efficiency, legal frameworks, institutional coordination, and cross-border collaboration, setting high standards for global anti-corruption efforts.

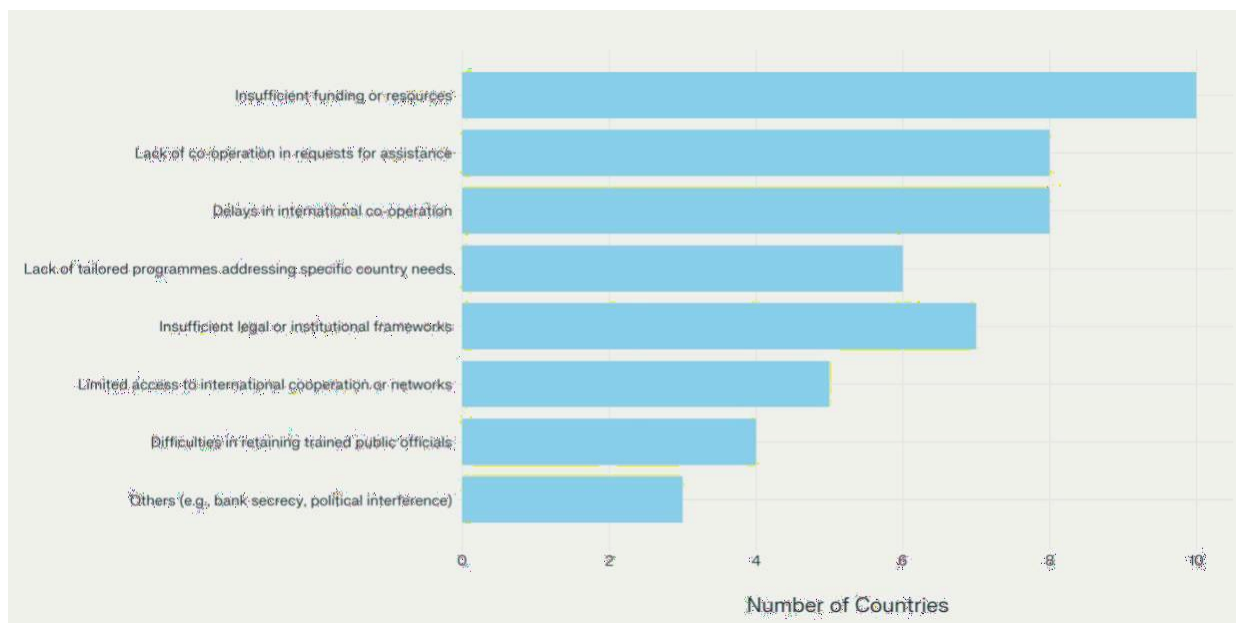
7. KEY CHALLENGES AND GAPS IDENTIFIED

The common challenges identified by donor and recipient countries in the provision of technical assistance included:

- a) Insufficient funding or resources: This was reported by the African Union, Brazil, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Nigeria, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Spain and the UK. This is a widespread challenge constraining capacity-building efforts and operational effectiveness.
- b) Some countries identified delays in international cooperation or response to mutual legal assistance (MLA). This challenge was reported by Germany, Ireland, Nigeria, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, UK and The Netherlands.
- c) Limited legal or institutional frameworks related to asset recovery was identified by more than 8 countries, including Brazil, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Nigeria, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, and Turkey. Many countries noted the need to strengthen or modernize their legal frameworks to align with international standards.
- d) The African Union, Indonesia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey identified lack of tailored or specific training programs that address specific country needs as a gap. Some of them indicated that their priority includes the tracing of virtual asset and operational challenges.
- e) Retention of skilled personnel: This is a challenge identified by countries such as Germany, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa and the UK. This challenge is linked to high turnover and the need for the institutionalization of training and development of retention strategies.
- f) Emerging technology use gaps (cryptocurrencies, AI, blockchain): Most countries, including Brazil, Germany, Indonesia, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and Turkey the tracing and recovering virtual assets as critical and noted that there is huge capacity gap that needs to be addressed.
- g) Most countries especially Australia, Germany, India, Nigeria, South Africa, Spain, and others emphasized the need for more practical, operational case handling and cooperation among countries.
- h) Other challenges identified are sustainability of impact due to staff turnover, political instability, risky operating environment, and variability in political will, limited regional presence that hinder deeper contextual engagement; technical challenges in conducting trans-border investigation, lack of investment of resources into capacity-building initiatives. Some members noted that technical assistance is yet to be fully translated to concrete outcomes and successful cooperation in asset recovery.

Figure B reflects the types of challenges identified by countries and the number of countries indicating these challenges.

Figure B: Challenges



8. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE NEEDS

Most countries recommended the strengthening of legal frameworks on asset recovery and management, regular coordination among capacity-building providers, more flexible and tailored training, enhancing technology skills, better inter-agency cooperation, creating specialized asset recovery units, and improving information sharing platforms. They noted that regional and global coordination, including donor coordination and network synergies, has improved collaboration and increased the participation of many transition and developing countries.

Priority areas recommended for replication include advanced digital forensics, blockchain and crypto investigations, asset management systems, forensic accounting, AI and data analytics, operational mentorship, and case-based peer learning. The analysis also showed that countries desire more targeted support on emerging issues like virtual assets, non-conviction-based confiscation, and public-private partnerships. There is also emphasis on harmonized legal frameworks, standardized operational protocols, and better information-sharing platforms. For example, China noted that:

Participation in the GlobE Network, INTERPOL should be deepened and expanded to ensure that there are knowledge products that allow countries to understand each other's legislation. As such, China has committed to work with UNODC to develop a Compendium of legislation and practice on "Denial of Safe Haven"

The need for enhanced coordination among donors, networks, and national authorities to avoid duplication and ensure that resources are well targeted was highlighted, as well as the advocacy for transparent reporting, sustainable funding, and institutionalization of training programs. To ensure donor coordination, France recommended that:

there is need for a regional approach under the mentorship of UNODC, emphasis on donor coordination and synergies, particularly where financial resources are limited, and the development of rapid response capability where there is political will.

Findings from the analysis showed that there is an urgent need to develop a results management framework which countries could rely on in measuring progress and impact when supporting or providing technical support. This will ensure that technical assistance is evidence-based and responds to the needs of the recipient countries.

8.1. Recommendations for the G20

Some recommendations highlighted by the countries for the G20 include:

- a) Strengthen asset recovery as a primary objective in the global anti-corruption campaign.
- b) Encourage member states to directly cooperate and share expertise with one another.
- c) Fund and create cutting-edge initiatives to increase capability in the areas of digital assets and complex financial crime.
- d) Provide global repositories for case studies, guidelines, and training materials.
- e) Lead efforts in enhancing mutual legal assistance procedures for timely, effective cross-border cooperation.
- f) Encourage the adoption of national laws supporting asset recovery, including beneficial ownership transparency and non-conviction-based forfeiture.
- g) Foster public-private partnerships to improve intelligence sharing and financial monitoring.
- h) Advocate for political commitment and resource allocation for sustainable asset recovery institutions.
- i) Support the development of secure platforms facilitating real-time information exchange.
- j) Champion the enforcement of international frameworks like UNCAC, promoting cooperation and compliance.

8.2. Recommendations for International Organizations

- a) Adapt training to the operational requirements of the recipient nation to increase its usefulness.
- b) To prevent duplication and maximize resource use, strengthen donor coordination systems.
- c) Encourage the establishment of certification programs and training facilities to maintain the transfer of information.
- d) Encourage informal avenues of cooperation in addition to formal MLAs to speed up cross-border initiatives.
- e) Offer technical support in new fields such as digital forensics and bitcoin asset tracing.
- f) Enhance legal framework harmonization and encourage the use of non-conviction-based asset recovery tools.
- g) Develop platforms for case-sharing, peer learning, and operational guidance accessible to practitioners.
- h) Strengthen institutions to increase their capacity to manage assets, including recovery, preservation, and disposal.
- i) Facilitate the growth and continuation of regional forums and networks for asset recovery.
- j) Advocate for equitable and transparent asset return procedures that help communities affected and victims alike.

8.3. Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR): Progress from Developing Economies

The response from the African Union (AU) showed that it has taken progressive steps to improve the legal framework and technical capacity of members to trace, recover, and negotiate the return and management of confiscated assets. These efforts were supported by the heads of state of the African Union through the adoption of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR) in 2020. This policy document complements the African Union Convention for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption (AUCPCC). It represents a crucial step for the member states of the AU, and the successful implementation of the framework requires support from G20 member countries. Additionally, the AU, through the African Union Advisory Body on Anti-Corruption (AU ABC), has established the African Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum (AARP-Forum). The object of this group is to connect experts, share best practices, and facilitate knowledge exchange on asset recovery implementation.

To advance CAPAR implementation at the national level, targeted resource mobilization and capacity-building efforts are critical to reinforcing AUABC's advocacy across member countries. It is recommended that the AUABC should be equipped to undertake the following tasks:

- Develop and execute impactful initiatives to raise awareness of CAPAR and highlight its pivotal role in the fight against corruption.
- Strategically leverage, engage and disseminate its position on asset recovery through established global platforms such as the Conference of the States Parties (COSP) to the United Nations Conference against Corruption (UNCAC).
- In line with CAPAR, engage destination countries and negotiate the establishment of escrow accounts as a mechanism for asset tracking and recovery—particularly in collaboration with the African Development Bank. This should be prioritized to ensure that contested funds are safeguarded and leveraged for optimal value for member states.
- To support the AU and member countries under the G20 South African Presidency, this report recommends capacity building for anti-corruption and asset recovery management agencies in Africa to adopt and implement non-conviction-based asset forfeiture and to equip civil society organizations (CSOs) to monitor asset recovery processes.

9. CONCLUSION

The findings from the review of asset recovery technical assistance initiated by G20 ACWG highlight significant and positive outcomes across recipient countries. By reinforcing legal frameworks, boosting institutional capacities, and promoting international cooperation, these efforts have strengthened asset recovery systems. Assistance - including case-specific mentoring, facilitation of Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA), specialized training, and policy guidance - has been tailored to unique country needs while aligning with global standards.

Broad participation in capacity-building activities demonstrates a collective commitment to advancing asset recovery systems. Emphasis on key areas, such as digital forensics, blockchain analysis, and inter-agency coordination, reflects the evolving landscape of illicit financial activity and stresses the need for adaptive approaches.

To sustain the progress recorded so far, it is crucial to embed training programs institutionally through the establishment of training and research centers either at the national or regional levels, secure necessary resources, and strengthen both regional and international partnerships. Ongoing advocacy, strategic initiatives, and inclusive engagement, particularly through platforms like the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to UNCAC, are essential to advancing the African Union's agenda.

At the moment, the evaluation of the impact of the technical assistance is not consistent across countries, thus leading to inconsistent outcomes and a lack of evidence required to assess impact. The development of a results management framework should be a significant outcome of the ACWG under the South African Presidency. This will ensure that asset recovery efforts yield measurable results.

For these efforts to succeed and contribute meaningfully to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), innovation and cooperation must be prioritized. Recommendations for **International Organizations** include strengthening coordination among capacity-building providers to avoid duplication, supporting development of training institutions and certification programs, fostering peer learning and informal cooperation, and promoting legal harmonization with best practices like non-conviction based forfeiture and asset return frameworks.

For the **G20**, recommendations underscore enhancing direct agency-to-agency cooperation, funding advanced training on emerging challenges like digital assets, fostering global knowledge-sharing platforms, advocating for transparent asset recovery policies, and mobilizing political will and resources to sustain effective asset recovery infrastructures.

Together, these coordinated strategies will help achieve transparent, accountable, and effective asset recovery systems that are critical for combating corruption globally and meeting international development targets.

Annex 1

5.1. Participation in Capacity Building Activities

Questions

1. Has your country or organization participated in capacity-building initiatives related to asset recovery over the past five years?
2. If yes, please provide details about these initiatives. Please describe any innovative or impactful programmes you have implemented or benefited from:
3. For recipients: What are the specific objectives your country seeks to achieve through asset recovery capacity-building and knowledge-sharing efforts? Please select those that are applicable.
4. For providers: What are the primary areas of focus for the capacity-building your organization/country provides in asset recovery?
5. How do you identify capacity-building needs (e.g. needs assessment, consultations between recipient and provider, use of findings by peer review mechanisms)?
6. How do you ensure coordination between different capacity-building providers and initiatives, to ensure your capacity-building initiatives are effective and do not duplicate other initiatives?
7. Are there any other means of cooperation and assistance your country offers that can increase the efficiency of asset recovery processes (e.g. posting liaison officers abroad, regular coordination meetings with requesting States, multilingual guidance materials, offering to litigate cases before domestic courts on behalf of a foreign State, participating in initiatives such as the African Union Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum and the GFAR Action Series)?

Responses: (In Alphabetical Order)

African Union

Q 1 and 2

The Continental Asset Recovery Support Programme (CAPAR Support Activities) is a strategic initiative designed to assist African Union (AU) Member States in aligning their national asset recovery frameworks with the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR). The programme comprises technical briefings, tailored assistance, and peer-learning engagements aimed at strengthening national and regional capacities for asset recovery. The project consists of technical briefings to AU member states. Assistance to member states is provided on request and Peer-Learning and joint training programs are held on demand. AU works closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, AU Member States' National Anti-Corruption Agencies, National Prosecution Agencies, and Foreign Embassies to provide training. Training recipients include, AU Member

States. Inter-Governmental Agencies, Regional Economic Communities, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Ministries of Justice and Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs).

Q 3

The programme aims to advocate for the importance of asset recovery in promoting economic justice and development across Africa. It promotes adherence to AU-developed continental instruments on asset recovery, builds technical capacity in key thematic areas including: development of beneficial ownership registers, Implementation of non-conviction-based forfeiture mechanisms, Facilitation of mutual legal assistance, Use of informal networks to support cross-border investigations. Other objectives include improving institutional and operational capacity such as investigative or prosecutorial capacity or receiving operational support (e.g., case-specific assistance, investigation support, overcoming procedural obstacles), enhancing international cooperation or cooperation mechanisms, developing or improving systems for tracing, freezing, and managing assets, building technology to support infrastructure and skills, facilitating asset return, and identifying options for or negotiating return agreements.

Q 4

This is achieved through strengthening institutional capacity, fostering collaboration and cooperation, and improving regulatory frameworks.

Q 5

Capacity training needs are identified through annual State Party reporting on the implementation of the AUCPCC, review missions, direct requests from State Parties and organisations.

Q 6

There are no other means of cooperation.

Q 7

No response provided

Australia

Q 1

In response to questions 1 and 2, Australia responded in the affirmative, and provided a list of technical support and initiatives to other countries. Australia is a donor country and has funded several projects. These projects are listed below.

Q 2

Projects Supported by Australia:

a) Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) Asset Confiscation Mentoring

Focus: End-to-end support for asset recovery cases.

Innovations: Legislative amendments tailored to recipient challenges; mentoring on financial

investigations.

Recipients: Tonga, Fiji.

b). Asia-Pacific Interagency Asset Recovery Network (ARIN-AP)

Focus: Regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing.

Impact: Inclusion of Pacific partners; new members (Vanuatu, Laos); operational training by AFP.

Innovations: Central authority contacts for cross-border asset tracing.

c). Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network (CARIN)

Focus: European cooperation on asset recovery.

Impact: Recommendations to Europol and EU Commission; thematic workshops.

Innovations: Promotion of non-conviction-based recovery and beneficial ownership transparency.

d). Criminal Assets Confiscation Proceeds of Crime Program Investigation Program (POCIP)

Focus: Foundational training for new investigators.

Impact: Enhanced understanding in Fiji and Vanuatu; adaptation of processes locally.

e). AFP CACT & Fiji ODPP Training on Asset Confiscation

Focus: Practical training in Suva, Fiji.

Impact: Strengthened skills in financial investigations, money trail tracking, and legal procedures.

f). Pacific Islands Law Officers Network (PILON)

Focus: Regional legal collaboration.

Impact: Workshops on asset seizure and litigation; cross-country knowledge exchange.

g). UNODC Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) Workshop

Focus: Regional standards and cooperation.

Impact: Strengthened ties with Viet Nam and other nations; shared best practices on asset tracing and unexplained wealth powers.

Q 3

Specific Objectives and benefits of the program were to strengthen regulatory frameworks for asset recovery, improving institutional capacity, improving operational (e.g. investigative or prosecutorial) capacity or receiving operational support (e.g., case-specific assistance, investigation support, overcoming procedural obstacles).

Q 4

The primary focus of this Australian asset recovery technical assistance project is to strengthen regional and national capabilities for asset recovery through a multi-agency approach, where each agency contributes distinct expertise. For example, the Attorney-General's Department focuses on policy and legislative development, ensuring alignment with FATF standards, supports institutional capacity building for justice and prosecution agencies and provides guidance on operational policies and procedures. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) deliver practical legal and investigative training using best practice techniques, enhances technical skills and knowledge for asset recovery practitioners, promotes inter-agency collaboration and mutual legal assistance processes. AUSTRAC (Financial Intelligence Unit) Builds capacity of regional FIUs, supports asset recovery through financial intelligence and data analytics, notably via the TAIPAN system.

These efforts aim to improve legislative frameworks, operational effectiveness, and regional cooperation, thereby hardening the region against money laundering and the concealment of criminal assets.

Q 5

Coordination is done through matching the technical assistance of recipient countries with suitable donors or providers. The APG facilitates this coordination to ensure that assistance is targeted and effective. They leverage their membership of Networks and Forums and engages with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism measures.

Q 6

The AFP and APG's Donors and Providers group coordinates technical assistance (TA) by matching country-identified needs with the most suitable providers, while also avoiding duplication and oversaturation through regular meetings that promote transparency, collaboration, and strategic alignment among donors.

Q 7

The AFP provides cooperation and assistance through a range of governance instruments and maintains a large network of law enforcement liaison officer in multiple countries. The Australian mutual assistance legislation and regime is used to assist and cooperate with other countries. Australia is an active participant in regional Asset Recovery Interagency Networks which foster the increased connectivity of law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies with remit in the criminal asset recovery space.

Brazil

Q 1 and 2

Yes, Brazil has held programmes. In 2022 and 2023, members of the Attorney General's Office received capacity-building training from several providers, focusing on various aspects of asset recovery and anti-corruption.

The training was provided by the ICAR/Basel Institute, STAR Initiative, ICAC/Hong Kong, and the OECD Tax Academy. The courses covered key areas, including:

- Value-Based Confiscation (STAR Initiative)
- New investigation techniques for asset recovery and corruption (ICAC) Non-Conviction Based (NCB) proceedings (ICAR Program)
- Crypto assets (OECD Tax Academy)

These programs were aimed at enhancing the expertise of the Attorney General's Office in modern asset recovery methods.

Q 3

- Strengthening of informal information sharing relating to asset recovery investigations.
- Improving operational (e.g. investigative or prosecutorial) capacity or receiving operational support (e.g., case-specific assistance, investigation support, overcoming procedural obstacles).
- Enhancing international cooperation or cooperation mechanisms
- Developing or improving systems for tracing, freezing, and managing assets.
- Facilitating asset return, identifying options for or negotiating return agreements etc.

Q 4

No answer

Q 5

Needs assessment internally by the AR unit.

Q 6 and Q 7

No response provided

China

Q 1 and 2

Yes, China and its Hong Kong Special Administrative Region are actively involved in international anti-corruption efforts, particularly through training and capacity-building for developing countries and those in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Training Programs: China holds annual anti-corruption training programs for BRI participants. In 2024, 83 practitioners from 16 developing countries attended these sessions. The Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) also provides asset recovery training in collaboration with international organizations for law enforcement agencies from other jurisdictions.

UNODC Project: With China's support, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has launched a project titled "Fostering sustainable development by supporting the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt" to establish a network of anti-corruption practitioners. This initiative

aims to foster cooperation, enhance information exchange, and strengthen the capacity of states to combat corruption in international investment projects under the BRI.

Q 3

No response provided

Q 4

China has a multifaceted approach to asset recovery capacity-building that combines legal, technological, preventative and international cooperation strategies.

The country focuses on strengthening the rule of law by training experts on the latest anti-corruption regulations. It also leverages technology, such as big data and AI, to improve the efficiency of investigations. A key preventive measure is the focus on stopping corrupt officials from fleeing abroad by enhancing the supervision of overseas SOEs' staff, financial institutions personnel and village officials and managing passports. Finally, China prioritizes international cooperation, using the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and multilateral platforms like G20, APEC, and BRICS to facilitate asset recovery and bridge differences in legal systems.

Q 5

China employs a multi-layered, data-driven approach to identify capacity-building needs in asset recovery through different channels. First, law enforcement and international cooperation practices. Through analysing the data gained from asset recovery cases, we collect and summarize the bottleneck issues, failures and experience gained from the practices, figure out the most common issues confronted by the practitioners. We also keep learning from counterparts of other jurisdictions to stay aligned with international practices, continue to improve China's legal system and practices. Second, surveys of relevant departments and local commissions. Surveys are sent to departments with supervisory power and duties, collecting their most concerned issues, such as issuing INTERPOL Red Notices, sharing of confiscated illegal proceeds, and how to promote the recognition of the evidence submitted by the Chinese side, etc. Third, dialogues with other stakeholders. By hearing opinions on asset recovery from different sectors, including those from universities and research centers, we continue to optimize the training programs to ensure that asset recovery serves the public good.

Q 6

The NCS formulates a National Plan for Discipline Inspection and Supervisory Officials Training and establishes the China Academy of Discipline Inspection and Supervision (CADIS), tasked with training Chinese supervisory officers and organizing anti-corruption training programs for both domestic and foreign practitioners. The NCS strives to achieve full coverage at the provincial, municipal, and county levels, and strengthens the high-standard and law-based development of the discipline inspection and supervision course. Each course offered by the CADIS is well designed, and the qualification of each participant is also examined before, during and after the courses, to avoid duplicated training content and maximize the training effect.

Q 7

China actively participates in multilateral frameworks, including the GlobE Network, anti-corruption working groups under G20, APEC, BRICS, attending the side events, workshops,

and symposiums to exchange best practices with counterparts of other jurisdictions. In September last year, China hosted the 5th GlobE Plenary Meeting in Beijing. More than 60 high-level representatives share their observations on combating corruption during the high-level forum. More than a hundred bilateral meetings were arranged on the sidelines to discuss cases, including asset recovery cases. The meeting also adopted the Beijing Consensus on Law Enforcement Cooperation and Denial of Safe Haven for Corruption, laying a solid foundation for future international asset recovery cooperation. The CADIS, tasked with training Chinese supervisory officers and organizing anti-corruption training programs for other countries, has held over 30 training sessions for over 1,000 anti-corruption officials from more than 90 countries and international organizations. Asset recovery is an important topic of these training sessions. The trainees are all satisfied with the training and express their willingness to incorporate the lessons learned from the training into their law enforcement practices.

France

Q 1 and 2

France actively supports international anti-corruption efforts through several capacity-building programs.

UNODC Platforms

From 2022 to 2026, France has provided support to two United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) projects: a regional platform for West Africa and the Sahel and a regional platform for the Western Balkans. France provided €1 million in funding for the West Africa platform and contributed an expert to the Western Balkans project. Both initiatives aim to help countries implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) by providing a forum for sharing best practices and addressing common challenges, with asset recovery identified as a key priority.

Bilateral Exchanges

In 2025, the French Ministry of Justice hosted two study visits. The first was with a delegation from Côte d'Ivoire, including the director of its Criminal Asset Recovery Agency. The exchange focused on French measures to boost seizures and confiscations, such as legislative changes, promoting criminal seizures, and the establishment of a network of specialists. The second visit was with a delegation from Ukraine, composed of members from its National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) and Specialised Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO). This exchange aimed to help Ukraine align its normative framework on seizures and confiscations with international standards, particularly in view of its application for OECD membership.

Q 3

No response provided

Q 4

The focus may vary depending on the project. In the context of the UNODC regional platforms, the focus of capacity building actions is decided based on a discussion between UNODC and partner countries. The activities are designed to advance countries' efforts to implement UNCAC in thematic areas jointly identified by the participating countries.

Other focus areas may include:

- Strengthening the normative framework to improve asset recovery.
- Description of the institutional set up (namely the French national Agency for the Management and Recovery of Seized and Confiscated Assets, “AGRASC”, and its 8 branches).
- Strengthening of international cooperation, including with the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust), the AGRASC, the criminal asset identification platform (Piac), the office for international mutual assistance in criminal matters (BEPI).

Q 5

In the context of the UNODC regional platforms, the needs are identified through dialogue between relevant authorities and UNODC. The dialogue is based on the expression of need in the framework of the UNCAC monitoring mechanism. In other cases, the assessment of capacity building and technical assistance needs can be reported to relevant teams in the Ministry of Justice via the Delegation for European and International Affairs (DAEI) of the Ministry of Justice, which is specifically responsible for receiving technical assistance needs and capacity building projects.

Q 6

The DAEI is in contact with Expertise France, and the entire cooperation ecosystem, including institutions, professions, schools and courts, and coordinates as far as possible through regular meetings and exchanges.

In the context of the UNODC regional platforms, the coordination is guaranteed by the interaction between UNODC and the network of actors on the ground and through France and/or UNODC’ participation in dialogue of assistance providers, such as the OECD Anticorruption Task Team (ACTT), Dialogue of experts at G7 level, through the “Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative” (StAR Initiative) or Team Europe Initiative (“Team Europe Democracy”, for example)

Q 7

With regards to the UNODC regional platforms, in each partner country, a donor coordination dialogue between EU countries could help avoid duplication and foster synergies. The operators of France’s ODA (Expertise France and Agence Française de Développement) also have their own regular contacts with other assistance providers to share information and try to coordinate their work, despite being in competition with each other on some areas.

Germany

Q 1 and 2

Germany held the following asset Recovery Capacity-Building Initiatives (2020–2025)

Purpose:

Strengthen international cooperation and technical capacity for asset recovery across African countries.

Key Activities:

- **ARIN Talks:** Promote cross-border collaboration and share best practices in tracing illicit financial flows.
- **Interpol Silver Notice Workshop:** Train law enforcement on using Interpol's Silver Notice for international asset recovery.
- **Support to CAPAR:** Assist AU Member States in implementing the Common African Position on Asset Recovery through technical and operational support.
- **Country-Level Trainings:** Provide mentorship and TOT programs to ensure sustainable local expertise.

Focus Areas:

- Virtual asset tracing (e.g., cryptocurrencies)
- Legal strategies: conviction-based, non-conviction-based forfeiture, civil litigation, ADR
- Regional workshops on asset management, mutual legal assistance, and financial investigations
- Stakeholders Involved:
 - ARIN focal points
 - Law enforcement agencies
 - Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs)
 - Prosecutors, judiciary, and other national stakeholders

Outcome:

Enhanced skills, tools, and cooperation mechanisms for effective asset recovery across borders.

Q 3

No response provided

Q 4

- a. Strengthen legal and institutional frameworks.
- b. Foster cross-border cooperation and information exchange.
- c. Improve operational capacity and provide case support.
- d. Exchange on emerging issues, best practices and new typologies.

Q 5

- a. Review of international and regional reports: Including Mutual Evaluation Reports (MERs), peer review findings, strategic assessments, and action plans developed by international and regional bodies.
- b. Direct consultations with partners: Engaging in regular dialogue with national counterparts and stakeholders to identify priority areas and tailor support based on evolving needs.
- c. Mapping of existing technical assistance (TA): Reviewing contributions by other TA providers to ensure complementarity, avoid duplication, and identify unmet needs or capacity gaps.

Q 6

Apart from conducting appraisal missions to identify gaps and needs, we ensure effective coordination through regular meetings and consultations with other technical assistance providers and stakeholders. These forums enable us to identify synergies, share information on ongoing and planned initiatives supported by Germany, and align efforts to avoid duplication. Additionally, in some cases, we undertake joint support activities to further maximize impact.

Q 7

Supporting initiatives that increase the efficiency of the asset recovery process:

- a. Interpol Silver Notice Mechanism: Facilitating timely international cooperation and information exchange to trace and recover assets linked to serious crimes.
- b. Asset Recovery Interagency Networks (ARIN) Talks: Promoting peer-to-peer learning, networking, and knowledge sharing among asset recovery practitioners across jurisdictions.
- c. African Union Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum and CAPAR: Engaging in continental platforms to harmonize approaches, build capacity, and coordinate regional asset recovery efforts.

India

Q 1 and 2

Name and brief description of the programme/initiative: Asset Recovery Workshops by World Bank StAR Initiative.

Year of participation: 2020, 2021, 2023

Capacity-building provider(s): World Bank in partnership with UNODC

Capacity-building recipient(s): ED officers

Main objectives, focus areas, stakeholders involved and results:

Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) World Bank in partnership with UNODC offered virtual workshops to ED officers on various aspects of the return of assets stolen by corruption. These sessions proved helpful in familiarising the ED officers with the international legal frameworks for asset recovery and challenges in undertaking domestic and cross border direct and equivalent based confiscations in transnational offences.

Apart from that ED officers have been participating in several training and capacity building programs organised on various topics by OECD Academy for Tax and Financial Crime Investigation; APG Technical Assistance & Training Forum; ARIN-AP Asset Recovery Training etc.

Q 3

- a. Strengthening regulatory frameworks for asset recovery.
- b. Strengthening of informal information sharing relating to asset recovery investigations.
- c. Improving institutional capacity.
- d. Improving operational (e.g. investigative or prosecutorial) capacity or receiving operational support (e.g., case-specific assistance, investigation support, overcoming procedural obstacles).
- e. Improving capacity in forensic techniques (e.g. in financial investigations, forensic accounting, blockchain analysis, data analytics).
- f. Enhancing international cooperation or cooperation mechanisms.
- g. Developing or improving systems for tracing, freezing, and managing assets.
- h. Building technology infrastructure and skills.

- i. Facilitating asset return, identifying options for or negotiating return agreements etc.

Q 4

The primary areas of focus for capacity-building in asset recovery include:

1. Financial Investigations: Training on how to conduct investigations in money laundering offenses to gain evidence and ensure prosecution of the persons who have knowingly engaged in concealing, possessing, acquiring, or using the proceeds of crime, with the intent to project them as untainted.
2. Asset recovery: Training on domestic and cross border tracing, seizing, freezing, attaching and confiscating direct or equivalent proceeds of crime
3. Beneficial Ownership: Educating participants on understanding and identifying beneficial ownership structures to uncover the real owners behind assets.

Q 5

Capacity-building needs are identified through quarterly conferences with the regular reviews of the work and evolving technical investigations and legal challenges. Based on these review processes, a needs assessment is conducted, and targeted capacity-building support is provided to the relevant officers

Q 6

- a. Coordination between different capacity-building providers and initiatives is ensured through a dedicated training section within ED, which analyses the capacity-building needs of ED officers and accordingly coordinates with various capacity building providers.
- b. Further, ED officers are also onboarded onto the i-GOT Karmyogi Platform, which offers Massive Open Source Courses, enabling anytime, anywhere, any-device learning for ED officials to enhance their core competency.
- c. Training and skill building are also undertaken through collaboration with International organizations like StAR Initiative of the World Bank, UNODC's Bali Process etc. Courses designed by these organizations, including those by the StAR World Bank Initiative, are developed in consultation with ED, based on the needs assessment conducted by ED
- d. ED is also in the process of finalizing various direct agency-to-agency MoUs with its foreign counterparts; wherein assistance in the field of capacity building and professional development by sharing investigating techniques, best practices, and organizing joint trainings, working groups, etc.; is a core area of cooperation.

Through these measures, capacity-building efforts are better integrated, complementary, and more effective in addressing the targeted needs.

Q 7

- ED is undertaking various initiatives for increasing the efficiency of asset recovery procedures.
- ED functions as the nodal agency from India for ARIN-AP and is a member of its Steering Committee. ARIN-AP is aimed at exchanging information on individuals,

companies, and assets at the international level, with the aim of facilitating the pursuit and recovery of assets derived from proceeds of crime.

- ED also participates in the Steering Committee discussions of the GlobE Network and assisted recently in the finalisation of guidelines for exchange of information among member nations on various aspects, including asset tracing and recovery. India's Central Bureau of Investigation is also a member agency of the GlobE Network.
- ED has placed a critical role in the drafting of FATF materials on asset recovery guidance especially concerning international cooperation for asset recovery, particularly in non-conviction-based confiscation cases.
- ED officers played a key role in drafting the StAR World Bank guidelines on Equivalent Value-Based Measures in Asset Recovery.

Indonesia

Q 1 and 2

KPK Capacity-Building Summary (2022–2025)

Main Objective: Strengthen KPK's ability to investigate corruption, money laundering, and recover stolen assets.

Focus Areas: Asset recovery, Money laundering, Cryptocurrency investigations, Asset tracing and management.

Stakeholders: KPK investigators, analysts, prosecutors, and other law enforcement agencies

Training Highlights: 2022–2025 Trainings Provided By: Basel Institute for Governance, Interpol, UNODC, US DOJ OPDAT, FBI, NAZAH, PPATK, KPK (internal).

Topics Covered includes Environmental crime investigations, Cryptoasset-related financial crimes, Offshore banking asset recovery, Counterfeit currency detection, Property and evidence management and Major asset loss corruption cases.

International Sharing Sessions

Purpose: Share KPK's best practices in asset tracing and recovery with foreign agencies.

Recipients include EACC (Kenya), FEACC (Ethiopia), NFCC (Malaysia)

Q 3

a. Strengthening of informal information sharing relating to asset recovery investigations

b. Improving institutional capacity

c. Improving operational (e.g. investigative or prosecutorial) capacity or receiving operational support (e.g., case-specific assistance, investigation support, overcoming procedural obstacles).

d. Improving capacity in forensic techniques (e.g. in financial investigations, forensic accounting, blockchain analysis, data analytics) e. Facilitating asset return, identifying options for or negotiating return agreements etc.

Q 4

The primary area of focus is Investigation of cross-border corruption and money laundering cases.

Q 5

As provider of capacity building to other foreign agencies. capacity-building needs are typically identified through consultative processes between the recipient agency and the provider.

To identify KPK capacity-building needs, KPK employs an analysis through the following steps:

- a. Collecting data and input from its work units through surveys, questionnaires, focus group discussions (FGDs), and reviews of organizational policy directions.
- b. Conducting a competency gap analysis.
- c. Formulating priority programs that align with the identified needs and availability of resources.

Q 6

To ensure effective coordination and avoid duplication in our capacity building initiatives, the following steps are taken:

- a. Assessment on the competence of available providers and partners based on the expertise they offer, such as Indonesian State Administration Institute, Financial and Development Supervisory Agency, and Ministry of Finance as main providers for Indonesian Civil Officer trainings, especially for audit and finance, or international partners such as UNODC, US DoJ OPDAT, ICITAP, AFP.
- b. Assessment on the alignment on material needs, learning method and the added value offered.
- c. Review and evaluation after implementing the programs.

Q 7

In the context of enhancing international cooperation in asset recovery, flexibility and responsiveness are key to ensuring effective collaboration. There are several measures that we can offer, as follows:

- a. Organizing coordination meetings with requesting States on a case-by-case basis to discuss the request and to clarify procedural requirements and strengthen working relationships. This can also be done prior to MLA process.
- b. Casework meeting during MLA request process

Ireland

Q 1 and 2

Name and short description of the programme/initiative:

Course Title: Investigating and preventing corruption

Year of participation: 2024 (Course 72/2024/ONS), 2025 (Course 67/2025/ONS)

Capacity-building provider(s): CEPOL

Capacity-building recipient(s): Multiple Countries

Main objectives, focus areas, stakeholders involved and results:

The aim of this onsite activity is to improve law enforcement capacity in the fight against corruption by exchanging knowledge and good practices on effective anti-corruption measures, targeting and detecting the forms, manifestations and main actors of corruption and using the international tools for prevention, investigation and prosecution. Multiple countries participated in the course and shared their experiences and expertise.

Q 3

- a. Strengthening of informal information sharing relating to asset recovery investigations
- b. Improving institutional capacity
- c. Improving operational (e.g. investigative or prosecutorial) capacity or receiving operational support (e.g., case-specific assistance, investigation support, overcoming procedural obstacles)
- d. Improving capacity in forensic techniques (e.g. in financial investigations, forensic accounting, blockchain analysis, data analytics)
- e. Enhancing international cooperation or cooperation mechanisms
- f. Developing or improving systems for tracing, freezing, and managing assets g. Facilitating asset return, identifying options for or negotiating return agreements etc

Q 4

An annual training needs analysis is carried in respect of each investigative unit. Training urgency levels are established, and priority training requirements are identified and addressed accordingly.

Q 5

Not applicable

Q 6

Internal and external training and capacity-building are closely monitored to ensure adequate and efficient distribution of training to avoid duplication, maximize impact, and ensure sustainability.

Q 7



Ireland engages in several forms of international cooperation and assistance to enhance the efficiency of asset recovery processes, particularly in cases involving organised crime and cross-border fraud.

Garda Liaison Officers are posted in various strategically located foreign countries. Liaison Officers can gather information quickly, build the foundations for a formal request, and develop a strategy that best accords with the legal systems of the different jurisdictions. Both the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) highlight the importance of the availability of informal cooperation and assistance mechanisms among counterpart agencies.

Italy

Q 1 and 2

Main objective:

Strengthen rule of law, judicial cooperation, and institutional capacity in Latin America and the Caribbean to combat organized crime and corruption.

Key Programmes:

Falcone-Borsellino Program: Promotes anti-mafia and anti-corruption tools through training and technical assistance, inspired by Italian magistrates Falcone and Borsellino.

PAESCA 3: Enhances security and justice systems in Central America via policy dialogue and Italian expertise.

PLAN DE APOYO: Bilateral support for legal cooperation and asset recovery, including reintegration of confiscated assets.

EL PACCTO 2.0 (EU): Strengthens Europe–Latin America cooperation on organized crime, focusing on asset recovery and institutional networks.

COPOLAD 3 (EU): Supports balanced drug policies and integrates anti-money laundering and socio-economic crime dimensions.

Focus Areas include Financial investigations; Asset tracing and recovery; Confiscation and reintegration of illicit assets; Whistleblower protection; Beneficial ownership transparency; Legal cooperation and capacity-building

Stakeholders: Judicial authorities, National parliaments, Civil society institutions, International organizations (e.g., G20, OECD, UNCAC)

Results & Impact: Alignment with UNCAC and G20 principles, regional seminars and technical assistance (e.g., Argentina, FOPREL), Tailored national anti-corruption strategies, promotion of Italy's asset recovery model: tracing, freezing, confiscating, and reintegrating illicit wealth; Legal and moral benchmarks for sustainable governance.

Q 3

a. Strengthening regulatory frameworks for asset recovery.

b. Strengthening of informal information sharing relating to asset recovery investigations.

- c. Improving institutional capacity.
- d. Improving operational (e.g. investigative or prosecutorial) capacity or receiving operational support (e.g., case-specific assistance, investigation support, overcoming procedural obstacles).
- e. Improving capacity in forensic techniques (e.g. in financial investigations, forensic accounting, blockchain analysis, data analytics).
- f. Enhancing international cooperation or cooperation mechanisms.
- g. Developing or improving systems for tracing, freezing, and managing assets.
- h. Building technology infrastructure and skills.
- i. Facilitating asset return, identifying options for or negotiating return agreements etc.
- j. Consensus building - the dissemination of a “culture of legality” to fight crime, through the direct testimony of the highest Italian institutional authorities involved in the fight against mafias, corruption, and money laundering.

The final objective is to enact a long-term value dissemination action in order to deeply root within the layers of society the belief that all public and private actions should be oriented towards legally just decisions which are shielded against corruptive attempts.

Q 4

The INTERPOL Silver Notice/Diffusion is one of the main and unique tools for member countries to combat serious crimes and enhance international police cooperation, in terms of requesting and sharing information with a view to facilitating follow-up bilateral cooperation on asset recovery. The confiscated real estate, pursuant to Article 48 of the Antimafia Code, may:

- a) be transferred to the municipality, the province, the metropolitan city or the region where the property is located, for institutional, social or economic purposes;
- b) be assigned, free of charge, directly by the Agency to communities, youth groups, volunteer organisations, cooperatives, therapeutic and rehabilitation centres for drug-addicted people, environmental protection associations, on the basis of specific agreements in compliance with the principles of transparency, adequate publicity and equal treatment, whereby their social use is clearly established according to criteria set out by the Board of Directors of the Agency.

Q 5

Both.

Technical assistance should be conducted through the approach of co-ownership with partner countries, which is firmly aligned with the essence of partnership, throughout the needs assessment, decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases of the initiatives. In the implementation of these technical assistance initiatives, a regional approach might enhance ownership and encourage emulation among partner countries.

Italy has designed and implemented a set of impactful regional and bilateral initiatives aimed at strengthening the rule of law, judicial cooperation, and institutional resilience in partner countries across Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Balkans. These programmes

promote advanced financial investigation skills, asset tracing, confiscation procedures, and the reintegration of illicit assets into the legal economy. They are implemented through a multi-stakeholder approach involving judicial authorities, parliamentary actors, civil society, and international organizations. Their methodology is fully aligned with the G20 High-Level Principles on Asset Recovery and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly Chapter V on asset recovery.

Italy's asset recovery system has become a reference point within the G20 for its unique combination of legal innovation and social impact. Grounded in the principle that confiscated assets should be returned to society, the Italian framework ensures that such assets are reintegrated into the legal economy to serve the public good. Under Article 48 of the Anti-Mafia Code, confiscated properties may be transferred to local and regional authorities for institutional, social, or economic purposes, or assigned free of charge to non-profit organizations, cooperatives, and youth associations. The Italian Constitutional Court has further affirmed that illicit wealth must not be dissipated but converted into social and economic value for communities. This model demonstrates how asset recovery can simultaneously advance legality, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

Q 6

Herewith a concise summary of Italy's Inter-Institutional Anti-Corruption Coordination Table, which was established in 2016 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (DGMO).

It aims to align Italy's multilateral anti-corruption efforts, coordinate technical assistance and capacity-building requests and facilitate inter-agency collaboration and experience-sharing.

Key Functions includes; harmonizing Italy's positions in global forums (e.g. G20, OECD); supporting foreign governments with training and expertise and promoting transparency, whistleblower protection, and infrastructure integrity.

Participating Stakeholders includes a wide range of institutions:

Ministries: Interior, Justice, Finance, Health, Education, etc.

Agencies: Bank of Italy/UIF, Guardia di Finanza, CONSIP, CONSOB, AIFA

Judiciary: Superior Council, Attorney General's Office, Anti-Mafia Directorate

Civil society: EURISPES, Transparency International

Academia: Universities of Rome Tor Vergata, LUISS, Salerno, Milan State

International bodies: IILA, IDLO

Multi-Stakeholder Approach

The Table fosters inclusive dialogue by involving: Public institutions, Private sector representatives, Think tanks and universities, and International NGOs/

A defining feature of Italy's approach to asset recovery is its emphasis on cultivating a culture of legality as a foundation for sustainable anti-corruption reform. Through public outreach, educational initiatives, and institutional testimonies, Italy has worked to build a shared societal

consensus that integrity and legality must underpin both public and private conduct. This long-term cultural strategy complements institutional and legal reforms, ensuring that the values of transparency, accountability, and justice are deeply rooted within communities and generations.

Q 7

All of the above

Italy's asset recovery system has become a reference point within the G20 for its unique combination of legal innovation and social impact. Grounded in the principle that confiscated assets should be returned to society, the Italian framework ensures that such assets are reintegrated into the legal economy to serve the public good. Under Article 48 of the Anti-Mafia Code, confiscated properties may be transferred to local and regional authorities for institutional, social, or economic purposes, or assigned free of charge to non-profit organizations, cooperatives, and youth associations. The Italian Constitutional Court has further affirmed that illicit wealth must not be dissipated but converted into social and economic value for communities. This model demonstrates how asset recovery can simultaneously advance legality, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

Q 9

Established in 2016, the Inter-Institutional Anti-Corruption Coordination Table serves as a permanent mechanism for ensuring coherence and synergy among all national stakeholders engaged in anti-corruption and asset recovery. Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), it gathers representatives from ministries, independent authorities, law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, academia, the private sector, and civil society, all institutions. This mechanism allows for effective coordination of technical assistance requests, the sharing of good practices, and the alignment of Italy's international positions. The Table is widely recognized as a model of governance ensuring inclusiveness, consistency, and strategic direction in international anti-corruption policy.

Japan

Q 1 and 2

Name and short description of the programme/initiative: 187th International Training Course

Year of participation: 2025

Capacity-building provider(s):

The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)

Capacity-building recipient(s):

Criminal justice practitioners from Bhutan, Ethiopia, Laos, Maldives, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zambia and Japan.

Main objectives, focus areas, stakeholders involved and results:

Main objectives and focus area were to examine current challenges and to explore effective countermeasures in the fight against money laundering. One of the key topics was how to facilitate asset recovery. Stakeholders were public prosecutors, police officers, financial

intelligence units (FIUs) and judges. The participants gained essential knowledge and skills through lectures by experts, exchanged best practices and challenges in their jurisdictions, and discussed effective countermeasures against money laundering and facilitating asset recovery.

Q 3

Not Applicable

Q 4

A broader approach is followed in the training for asset recovery addressing tracing, freezing and confiscating criminal proceeds derived from corruption. The programmes also emphasise the importance of informal law enforcement cooperation and mutual legal assistance in asset recovery.

Q 5

We select the themes of our training programmes based on the reports and key findings of UN meetings such as the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC and its relevant Working Groups. We also refer to reports of the Implementation Review Mechanism of UNCAC.

Q 6

We coordinate with UNODC (headquarters and field offices as necessary) and share information about our training programmes with other United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institutes (PNIs) through meetings and workshops.

Q 7

Japan posts liaison officers and liaison prosecutors abroad, and they can help facilitate the MLA processes on asset recovery.

We also participate in the annual plenary meeting of ARIN-AP and share our legal framework and experience on asset recovery with the aim of enhancing the efficiency of asset recovery processes.

Netherlands

Q 1 , Q 2 and Q 4 have the same response

- a. The Dutch Police ARO, Judicial ARO and AMO provide presentations on the organisation of asset recovery in the Netherlands to countries that are in the process of setting up an ARO or an AMO.
- b. We are an active member of the CARIN and EU-ARO network.
- c. We think along with legislative lawyers when drafting new legislation, using practical experience to improve regulations.
- d. We are also contributing to the development of asset return policies.

Q 5

- a. Strengthening of informal information sharing relating to asset recovery investigations.
- b. Enhancing international cooperation or cooperation mechanisms.
- c. Developing or improving systems for tracing, freezing, and managing assets; d. Facilitating asset return, identifying options for or negotiating return agreements etc.

Q 5 and 6

No response provided

Q 7

We participate in CARIN. In recent years, we have been a member of the Steering Group of 9 countries. An important task of the Steering Group is to organise the annual CARIN meeting in which improving international cooperation and building an international asset recovery network is important.

Nigeria

Q 1 and 2

Name and short description of the programme/initiative: Institutionalising Asset Recovery and Borderless Investigation in Anticorruption Practices

Year of participation: 2022

Capacity-building provider(s): UNODC

Capacity-building recipient(s): Anticorruption and Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Ministry of Justice

Main objectives, focus areas, stakeholders involved and results: Asset Investigation and Recovery of Assets Located in Foreign Jurisdiction

Q 3

Strengthening regulatory frameworks for asset recovery

- a. Strengthening of informal information sharing relating to asset recovery investigations.
- b. Improving institutional capacity.
- c. Improving operational (e.g. investigative or prosecutorial) capacity or receiving operational support (e.g., case-specific assistance, investigation support, overcoming procedural obstacles).
- d. Developing or improving systems for tracing, freezing, and managing assets.

Q 4

No response provided

Q 5

1. By determining Specific Areas where capacity is needed.
2. Developing Training Needs Assessment with provider.

Q 6

Structuring Current Capacity and Partnering with Providers.

Q 7

- a. Partners with the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CODA) on addressing Illicit Financial Flows and asset recovery in the Extractive Industries.
- b. Nigeria Chairs the Regional Meeting of the Network of Anticorruption Institutions in West Africa (NACIWA).
- c. Nigeria is an Active Member of the Global Operational Network of Anticorruption Law Enforcement Authorities (Globe Network).
- d. Nigeria is also at the Frontier of Pushing for the Operationalization of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR).

Norway

Q 1 and 2

Yes, Name and short description of the programme/initiative: Basel Institute on Governance/International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR). “Support to the implementation of ICAR Strategy 2025-2029) (five countries supporting Switzerland, Norway, UK, Lichtenstein and Jersey. Contract between Norwegian Development Cooperation Agency (Norad) and Basel Institute.

UNODC “Accelerate the implementation of UNCAC” (started late 2018) and the present agreement is running through 2026 (GLOZ99 Global Anti-Corruption program), one component include support to Stolen Asset Recovery Program (StAR). (Contract between Norwegian Development Cooperation Agency (Norad) and Basel Institute.

Year of participation: See above

Capacity-building provider(s): See above

Capacity-building recipient(s): ODA eligible countries

Main objectives, focus areas, stakeholders involved and results.

Q 3

No response provided

Q 4

Support provided to UNODC (including StAR) and ICAR

UNODC (incl. StAR) Support

Purpose: Assist developing countries in implementing UNCAC commitments.

Activities:

Follow-up on self-assessments and country review reports.

Respond to technical assistance requests.

Goal: Strengthen anti-corruption frameworks and asset recovery efforts.

ICAR Support

Theory of Change Highlights:

Technical Assistance (80%)

Case advice and mentoring for complex financial crime investigations

Practical training using simulations and eLearning

Legal and institutional reforms to close gaps in asset recovery systems

Policy Innovation & Dialogue (20%)

Share insights through case studies and global forums

Contribute to international standards and practices

Strategic Outcomes (2025–2028):

Partner countries improve sanctions and asset recovery

Increased public trust and stronger economies

Global community adopts more effective asset recovery laws

Q 5

This is done by the implementing partners (UNODC and ICAR) through needs assessments and the UNCAC and FATF requirements and review mechanisms, GAP analysis, and close monitoring of programs (includes M&E), also evaluations of the programs.

Q 6

Meeting points, sharing of information, informal and formal contact.

Q 7

Through the cooperation agreement between Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and implementing partners (UNODC and International Agency for Asset Recovery (ICAR) the efficiency of asset recovery process is continuously on the agenda and knowledge production, training, technical assistance and advisory service, GFAR is a priority. Norad also organizes a closed network of prosecutors and select leaders of ACAs where key information is shared on ways to facilitate asset recovery. This group is called the Corruption Hunters Network and is not confused with the much larger group organized by the World Bank.

Portugal

Q 1 and 2

Summary of Asset Recovery & Financial Investigation Initiatives (2022–2025)

Europol – Project A.S.S.E.T. (2025)

Goal: Rapid cross-border asset tracking, freezing, and seizure

Outcome: Identified ~€60 million in assets (real estate, vehicles, bank accounts, crypto)

Participants: EU Member States & Third Countries

Interpol Silver Notice / Diffusion Pilot (2025)

Goal: Provide practical guidance on issuing and responding to Silver Notices

Status: Ongoing

Participants: Interpol Member States

Forum of Asset Management Offices – Monaco (2025)

Goal: Exchange best practices on managing seized/confiscated assets

Format: Country presentations and bilateral/multilateral case discussions

Participants: Judicial representatives from various countries

FISCALIS Program (2024)

Goal: Strengthen tax recovery through enhanced cooperation with asset recovery and law enforcement bodies

Provider: European Commission

Participants: EU Member States and partners

Forum on Asset Targeting & Recovery Systems (2023)

Goal: Improve international cooperation and systems for asset targeting and recovery Provider: Guardia di Finanza Participants: Multiple states and agencies THB Expert Meeting – EMPACT (2022)

Focus: Financial investigation and asset recovery in trafficking in human beings (THB) cases

Goal: Strengthen cross-border cooperation

Provider: European Commission – EMPACT

Q 3

a. Strengthening of informal information sharing relating to asset recovery investigations.

b. Improving operational (e.g. investigative or prosecutorial) capacity or receiving operational support (e.g., case-specific assistance, investigation support, overcoming procedural obstacles)

- c. Improving capacity in forensic techniques (e.g. in financial investigations, forensic accounting, blockchain analysis, data analytics).
- d. Enhancing international cooperation or cooperation mechanisms.
- e. Developing or improving systems for tracing, freezing, and managing assets.
- f. Building technology infrastructure and skills.

Q 4

In the ARO perspective:

1. The importance of having a multidisciplinary team in the ARO composed of criminal investigators, Tax Authority inspectors and Registers officials.
2. Databases available (direct and indirect).
3. Similar police powers given to the financial investigators.
4. Cooperation and close and permanent articulation between the ARO, criminal investigation and Public Prosecutors Office.
5. Parallel investigations – criminal and financial investigation

In the AMO perspective, namely:

1. Protect, preserve, and manage assets recovered or in the custody of the State.
2. Order their sale.
3. Determine their allocation to a public or socially useful purpose related to the administration of justice, provided that the assets to be allocated are of interest to the beneficiary entity and are suitable for the exercise and performance of its legal and statutory powers.
4. Order the destruction of the assets.
5. Ensure the allocation of assets recovered or declared forfeited to the State by final and binding decision.

Q 5

Internal quizzes.

Questionnaires – EUROPOL, CEPOL, INTERPOL

Q 6

Different approaches can be established so as to ensure coordination with other providers.

Q 7

1. Participation in the ARO Platform meetings
2. Participation in the CARIN and regional meetings
3. Participation in the Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery – Interpol
4. Member of the CARIN Steering Group
5. Participation in Operation OSCAR – Target Group Sanctions
6. Participation in Silver Notice / Diffusion Pilot Project
7. Participation in Project A.S.S.E.T.
8. Working meetings with Member States and Third Countries (at request)
9. Lectures given to other law enforcement agencies mainly to make known the mission of the ARO and also improve and strengthen cooperation
10. Lectures given to other EU Member States – CEPOL Exchange Programme and Erasmus – and Third Countries, including Brazil, Angola, Mozambique and Guinea- Bissau
11. Lectures given on ENFIN On the Move Program

12. Lectures given on the AIRCOP South-Eastern Europe Program
13. Lectures given on the EU Global AML/CFT Facility (at request of Morocco)
14. Lectures given on the EU Global AML/CFT Facility (at request of Panama)
15. Participation in EL PAcCTO Project (at request, Panama and Peru)

Russia

Q 1 and 2

Russia's Asset Recovery & Anti-Corruption Initiatives (2024–2025)

1. BRICS Presidency – Asset Recovery Priority (2024)

Special Event in Moscow: Focused on asset recovery challenges, especially virtual assets, and enhancing UNCAC cooperation.

Key Documents Adopted:

BRICS Common Vision on Asset Recovery

Analytical Note on Asset Recovery in BRICS

BRICS Cooperation in Anti-Corruption Education & Capacity-Building

Future Plans: Consideration of a BRICS asset recovery network.

2. UNODC Workshop on UNCAC Implementation (Oct 2024)

Hosted by: Russian Prosecutor-General's Office

Participants: 40+ experts from 27 countries (Asia-Pacific, Africa, BRICS)

Focus: Chapter V of UNCAC (Asset Recovery), country review methodology, action planning, and technical assistance.

Support: Russia's financial contribution; similar trainings also supported in Vienna.

3. ITMCFM Initiatives for EAG Members (2025)

Workshops Held:

Parallel financial investigations and asset tracing abroad

Best practices in ML/TF statistics, confiscated property, and MLA requests

4. Analytical Study on Legal Regulation (2025)

Issued by: ITMCFM

Purpose: Raise awareness on international and domestic procedures for asset tracing, seizure, and recovery

Scope: Comparative analysis across jurisdictions, aligned with updated FATF standards

Q 3

No response provided

Q 4

The Prosecutor-General's Office of the Russian Federation provides foreign competent authorities with its expertise in non-conviction-based forfeiture and recovery of assets on a regular basis.

The Federal Service for Financial Monitoring is focused on strengthening its own and partner countries' AML/CFT systems.

Q 5

The needs are identified based on the mutual evaluation procedures, consultations and direct requests, either of capacity-building support or sharing of knowledge and expertise in a specific area.

Q 6

As regards the EAG region, the ITMCFM uses the single information system for coordination on technical assistance and enjoys the support of the Working Group on Technical Assistance (WGTA).

Q 7

In 2023, Russia updated the information with regard to its domestic laws and procedures in the relevant G20 step-by-step guides. The documents are accessible via the following links:

1) On asset tracing: <http://bit.ly/3IvaKFy>

2) On asset recovery: <http://bit.ly/4520g9k>

Saudi Arabia

Q 1 and 2

Saudi Arabia has undertaken the following Anti-Corruption & Asset Recovery Training Initiatives (2024–2025):

1. “Uniting the World in Combating Corruption in a New Era” (2024)

Providers: HKIAAC (ICAC, Hong Kong) & UNODC's GlobE Network

Recipients: Anti-corruption officers from GlobE Network countries, incl. Saudi Arabia

Focus: Financial investigation, asset recovery, and international networking

Outcome: 42 participants gained specialized skills and built collaborative ties

2. “Combating Corruption and Financial Crimes: A Global Response” (2025)

Providers: HKIAAC (ICAC, Hong Kong) & UNODC's GlobE Network

Recipients: GlobE Network officers, incl. Nazaha (Saudi Arabia)

Focus: Forensic techniques, financial data analysis, illicit fund tracing, money laundering, asset recovery, and global cooperation

Format: Interactive case studies, hands-on exercises, and visits to financial regulators

Outcome: 42 participants engaged in immersive learning and experience-sharing

3. “Required Skills and Techniques in Asset Recovery” (2024)

Providers: Nazaha & World Bank Group

Recipients: Specialists from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Morocco, China, Thailand,

Indonesia

Q 1

Focus: Practical asset recovery skills

Format: 3-day training at Nazaha’s Training Centre in Riyadh

Outcome: Strengthened regional expertise in asset recovery

4. Workshop on International Asset Recovery (2025)

Providers: Nazaha & Nigeria’s Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

Recipients: Specialists from various government entities

Focus: Enhancing asset recovery from abroad through collaboration and innovation

Format: 5-day workshop in Riyadh (Feb 2025)

Outcome: Promoted cross-border cooperation and innovative recovery strategies

Q 3

- a. Strengthening regulatory frameworks for asset recovery
- b. Strengthening of informal information sharing relating to asset recovery investigations;
- c. Improving institutional capacity
- d. Improving operational (e.g. investigative or prosecutorial) capacity or receiving operational support (e.g., case-specific assistance, investigation support, overcoming procedural obstacles);
- e. Improving capacity in forensic techniques (e.g. in financial investigations, forensic accounting, blockchain analysis, data analytics);
- f. Enhancing international cooperation or cooperation mechanisms;
- g. Developing or improving systems for tracing, freezing, and managing assets;
- h. Building technology infrastructure and skills
- i. Facilitating asset return, identifying options for or negotiating return agreements etc.

Q 4

Nazaha based on international standards and practices, prioritizes the following areas when providing a capacity-building for asset recovery:

- Strengthening Legal and Policy Frameworks: to ensure national laws align with international standards to enable asset recovery.
- Enhancing Technical Skills for Investigations: to build expertise in tracing, seizing, and recovering illicit assets.
- Improving International Cooperation: to strengthen capacity to engage in cross-border asset recovery through effective mutual legal assistance (MLA) and informal cooperation.
- Asset Management and Disposal: to ensure effective management, preservation, and disposal of seized or confiscated assets.

Q 5

Nazaha's Capacity-Building Strategy for Asset Recovery

- Structured Approach: Nazaha conducts systematic needs assessments involving stakeholder mapping, interviews, workshops, and surveys to identify roles, challenges, and existing capacities.
- Gap Analysis: Evaluates legal frameworks, institutional structures, technical skills, and inter-agency coordination against international standards to identify areas for improvement.
- Risk-Based Prioritization: Capacity gaps are ranked by their impact on asset recovery outcomes, with emphasis on high-risk areas like tracing assets abroad. Priorities are aligned with national anti-corruption strategies and global commitments.
- Knowledge Sharing: The Asset Recovery from Abroad Department utilizes platforms like the StAR Asset Recovery Knowledge Hub and Basel Institute resources to enhance learning and collaboration.

Q 6

To ensure effective coordination between capacity-building providers and initiatives for asset recovery, Nazaha applies a systematic approach to avoid duplication, maximize resource efficiency, and enhance impact.

A concise framework must be implemented to achieve this through:

- Establishing a Coordination Mechanism and organize periodic meetings or virtual check-ins to share updates, align activities, and address emerging needs.
- Conducting a Mapping Exercise to identify all active capacity-building providers, programs, and initiatives in the asset recovery space. Include details like scope, target audience, funding, and timelines.
- Assessing overlaps and gaps through Analyzing mapped initiatives to identify duplication and underserved areas.

Q 7

It is important to highlight the crucial role of informal cooperation in asset recovery that lies in its ability to facilitate rapid, flexible, and trust-based collaboration between jurisdictions, enabling the swift exchange of information and intelligence before formal legal processes, such as mutual legal assistance (MLA) requests, are initiated.

Nazaha as a member of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network), and an observer to the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (Carin) has made strides in strengthening its Anti-Corruption and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) frameworks, which are critical to asset recovery. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia represented by the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), has successfully hosted the permanent secretariat of the Regional Asset Recovery Network in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA-ARIN) and is assuming the network's presidency in 2025.

Finally, a "Procedures Manual for Legal Assistance and Recovery of Assets" in Saudi Arabia was developed and it outlines the process for international cooperation in criminal matters, particularly mutual legal assistance (MLA). This manual, available through the Ministry of Interior "the central authority that coordinates MLA requests in Saudi Arabia", details how the Kingdom will implement requests for assistance from other countries, including the collection of evidence, financial records, witness statements and asset recovery.

South Africa

Q 1 and 2

Prosecutor Placement Programme – UNODC & GPML

Initiative Overview: A capacity-building programme by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), under the Global Programme against Money Laundering (GPML), launched in 2009.

Year of Participation: 2022 (ongoing since 2009)

Provider: Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU), National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa

Recipients: Prosecutors from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, particularly ARINSA member countries

Objectives & Focus Areas:

- Equip newly appointed confiscation prosecutors with hands-on experience in asset recovery
- Focus on South African legal frameworks, especially the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA)
- Cover both criminal (Chapter 5) and civil (Chapter 6) forfeiture procedures

Methodology:

- One-month placements in South Africa, hosted three times annually
- Practical training under experienced confiscation lawyers
- Participants apply skills in their home Asset Recovery Units

Stakeholders:

UNODC, ARINSA, AFU, regional prosecutors, and donor organizations

Expansion:

A similar pilot programme for Financial Investigators was launched in Eswatini and Zambia in

late 2021.

Q 3

- a. Improving operational (e.g. investigative or prosecutorial) capacity or receiving operational support (e.g., case-specific assistance, investigation support, overcoming procedural obstacles).
- b. Building technology infrastructure and skills.
- c. Facilitating asset return, identifying options for or negotiating return agreements etc.

Q 4

The Programme focuses exclusively on South African asset recovery case law, practice and procedure based on the provisions of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, 1998, which provides for:

- Criminal (conviction) based forfeiture to recover the benefit derived from crime (in terms of Chapter 5 of POCA)
- Civil (non-conviction) based forfeiture to recover the proceeds of unlawful activities and instrumentalities of offences (in terms of Chapter 6 of POCA)

The Prevention of Organised Crime Act, 1998 applies to all crimes, not only corruption, including individual wrongdoing.

The Asset Forfeiture Unit has developed a similar program for Financial Investigators.

Q 5

- a. Environmental evaluation / scanning
- b. Stakeholder consultation
- c. Skills assessments / analysis
- d. Performance reviews
- e. Benchmarking
- f. Feedback mechanisms

Q 6

- a. Specific expert trainers are involved.
- b. Written material is prepared prior to training.
- c. This written material is further reviewed before distribution.

Q 7

International Cooperation – Asset Forfeiture Unit (South Africa)

Information Sharing:

The Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) may share open-source information with domestic and international law enforcement agencies without needing formal agreements. However, protected intelligence requires a Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) agreement due to privacy laws.

Legal Frameworks:

South African domestic law supports asset recovery assistance. The country can enter into general, ad hoc, bilateral, or multilateral agreements when required by other states.

ARINSA Network:

AFU is part of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa (ARINSA), an informal platform for sharing:

- Asset forfeiture and confiscation information
- Model legislation
- Domestic laws on money laundering

Global Initiatives:

- AFU actively participates in international anti-corruption and asset recovery efforts, including:
- StAR Initiative (UNODC & World Bank)
- Global Forum on Asset Recoveries (GFAR)
- GlobE Network (UNODC)
- International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR)

Spain

Q 1 and 2

1. FIAP-Led Programmes (2017–ongoing)

Initiatives:

EU-ACT, SECFIN, A-TIPSON, EUROFRONT, COP Projects, COPOLAD

Providers: FIAP (Spanish public foundation), EU institutions, national law enforcement, judicial authorities, UNODC and Spanish collaborators: Guardia Civil, Policía Nacional, Public Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Interior, Plan Nacional sobre Drogas

Recipients includes authorities in West Africa (Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Mauritania), Sahel, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America

Objectives & Results:

- Strengthen financial investigation, judicial cooperation, and asset recovery
- Train police, customs, and prosecutors
- Promote inter-agency and international cooperation
- Support legislative reform and strategic planning

Outcomes: joint investigation teams, FIU protocols, improved MLA drafting, asset tracing progress

Developed best practice guides on parallel investigations, asset forfeiture, and asset recovery/disposal

2. Ministry of Justice – High-Level Seminar (2023)

Initiative:

High-Level Seminar on Money Laundering and Organized Crime

Providers: Spanish Ministry of Justice, AECID Training Center, CORPME, CGPJ, FGE, CGN, ORGA, SEPBLAC, Public Treasury and International partners: COMJIB, AIAMP, GAFILAT, UNODC, IBEROREG, Costa Rican Institute on Drugs, Special Assets Company (Colombia)

Recipients: Ibero-American institutions

Objectives & Results:

- Multi-week program covering prevention, investigation, asset tracing, recovery, and management
- Built an “Ibero-American Memory” on money laundering
- Shared best practices and legislative insights
- Led to a 2023 seminar to discuss a regional Diagnostic Report and Action Plan

3. AECID-Supported Programmes

Initiatives:

- Combating Money Laundering and Transnational Crime (2025)
- Provider: Spanish General Council of Notaries (CGN)
- Registry Cooperation in AML (2024)
- Provider: Association of Registrars (CORPME)

Focus:

- Strengthen international cooperation networks
- Enhance registry systems’ role in anti-money laundering efforts

Q 3

- a. Strengthening regulatory frameworks for asset recovery
- b. Strengthening of informal information sharing relating to asset recovery investigations;
- c. Improving operational (e.g. investigative or prosecutorial) capacity or receiving operational support (e.g., case-specific assistance, investigation support, overcoming procedural obstacles);
- d. Improving capacity in forensic techniques (e.g. in financial investigations, forensic accounting, blockchain analysis, data analytics);
- e. Enhancing international cooperation or cooperation mechanisms;
- f. Developing or improving systems for tracing, freezing, and managing assets

Q 4

- a. Financial investigations and money laundering
- b. Tracing, freezing and confiscation of illicit assets
- c. Strengthening inter-agency cooperation
- d. Enhancing international mutual legal assistance (MLA)
- e. Capacity-building in criminal justice and financial intelligence
- f. Use of special investigative techniques and digital tools
- g. Promoting use of non-conviction-based confiscation where applicable

The National Police focuses on building capacity by promoting early-stage financial investigations as part of a comprehensive asset recovery process. Meanwhile, the Counterterrorism and Organised Crime Intelligence Centre (CITCO) emphasizes rapid and effective intelligence sharing across borders to strengthen international cooperation against organized crime and money laundering. Both institutions stress the importance of systematic data collection, precise asset traceability throughout legal proceedings, and close coordination among law enforcement agencies to ensure successful recovery and restitution of illicit assets.

Q 5

- a. Joint needs assessments with beneficiary countries.
- b. Ongoing consultation with national counterparts and regional organisations.
- c. Alignment with EU strategic priorities (NDICI, Global Gateway).
- d. Peer review mechanisms and lessons learned from implementation.
- e. Coordination with international donors and UN agencies.
- f. Professional expertise of investigators leading to the identification of gaps in asset recovery issues.
- g. Needs assessment conducted by the entity specialized in training to combat organized crime and money laundering to identify key areas for improvement and implement strategic measures that effectively address and rectify deficiencies identified in prior stages.

Q 6

- a. Participation in donor coordination groups and technical roundtables.
- b. Close collaboration with EU Delegations and regional actors (ECOWAS, AU, UNODC and GIABA).
- c. Shared planning with other implementers (GIZ, Expertise France, Civipol and UNODC).
- d. Joint missions and information-sharing platforms.
- e. Alignment with national priorities and existing strategic plans.
- f. Internal coordination systems aimed at involving all relevant actors in the asset recovery process (LEAs, prosecutors, judges, ministries, private sector, etc.).
- g. Review of specialized content and a precise, strategic definition of objectives

Q 7

- a. Liaison officers, liaison magistrates posted to EU Member states and third States
- b. Facilitation of joint investigation teams (JITs) and liaison magistrates
- c. Deployment of Spanish law enforcement and judicial experts in-country
- d. Support for participation in networks such as CARIN, RRAG, ARINSA, ARIN- WA or the specialised networks within the Ibero-American Network of Public Prosecutors (network against criminal profits, network against corruption, network against drug trafficking, among others).
- e. Guidance on drafting MLA requests and seizure warrants

- f. Organisation of peer exchanges and study visits to Spain for institutional strengthening
- g. At global level, participation in the Glob-e network

Spain's National Police actively participate in international meetings and initiatives related to asset recovery and leads operational informal international channels for the exchange of information for asset recovery. The Guardia Civil is a member of the Spanish Financial Action Task Force (FATF) delegation, and part of working groups in international organisations such as Interpol and Europol. For its part, CITCO actively attends specialized meetings and forums focused on international cooperation against organized crime, money laundering and asset recovery. At the national level, it holds regular meetings and forums with key stakeholders, thus ensuring seamless and coordinated communication to maximize efforts in recovering illicit assets and preventing financial crime

Turkey

Q 1 and 2

Q 5

Efforts are being made to comply with FATF standards regarding the asset recovery in crimes such as money laundering, financing of terrorism, and drug trafficking. Increasing cooperation and information sharing among institutions in this regard is among the main objectives.

Q 6

Prioritization is enabled in accordance with the "National Risk Assessment" document, prepared under the coordination of MASAK.

Q 7

Working group meetings are held with representatives from different institutions to exchange views and increase institutional cooperation.

United Kingdom

Q 1 and 2

Q 3

Not applicable

Q 4

Various anti-corruption and asset recovery initiatives and evaluations:

- European Illicit Finance Capacity Development Project
- Implemented 95 recommendations across Latvia, Malta, and Cyprus:
- Latvia: Focused on AML reform and strengthening law enforcement asset recovery capabilities.
- Malta: Delivered technical training and facilitated knowledge exchanges with UK counterparts.
- Cyprus: Promoted public-private partnerships and asset recovery reform.

International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) – Core Funding

- Strengthens legal and institutional frameworks for asset recovery.
- Provides case-specific support, training, and policy/legal advice.
- Facilitates Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) and intelligence exchange, especially in non-conviction-based forfeiture cases.
- Highly valued for its technical expertise and contextual understanding, though faces challenges like resource constraints and staff turnover.
- Evaluation supported ICAR’s strategic update for 2025–2028.

Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR) – Core Funding

- Collects and analyzes asset recovery data to identify trends and promote transparency.
- Highlights the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in asset return processes.
- Builds CSO networks and capacity to ensure recovered assets benefit affected populations and reduce re-corruption risks.

Nigeria Illicit Finance Resilience Project

- Assessed effectiveness of asset return mechanisms to Nigeria.
- Focused on innovations to mitigate risks of re-corruption in recent agreements.
- Caribbean Illicit Finance and Anti-Corruption Project
- Delivered technical assistance and training on asset recovery and management.
- Developed SOPs and applied case-based training covering the full asset recovery lifecycle.

UKCA/IACC Project (Concluded)

- Developed training to improve MLA requests and asset recovery capabilities.
- Enhanced prosecution capacity and confidence in responding to UK requests.
- Covered topics like asset tracing, grand corruption, non-conviction-based recovery, and enforcement of orders in the UK

UNODC IFAC Roadmap

- Aimed to strengthen Western Balkans’ capacity to combat serious organized crime.
- Focused on asset recovery as a stabilizing force in the region.

AIRE Centre (Western Balkans)

- Improved capacity of judiciary and investigative authorities in WB6 countries.
- Promoted regional cooperation and financial investigations.

IACCC (International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre)

- Builds capacity through operational collaboration, not generic training.
- Uses case-specific mentoring, workshops, knowledge sharing, and the WATCH initiative (Women Against Transnational Corruption Hub).

Q 5

Summary of Engagement Approaches:

- FCDO: Engagement is demand-driven and adaptive, formalized through signed protocols. Deep understanding of local laws and access to stakeholders enables tailored technical assistance focused on asset recovery challenges.
- UKCA/IACC: Countries were selected based on priority assessments. UKCA coordinated with in-country stakeholders to facilitate engagement with recipient organizations.
- European Illicit Finance Capacity Development Project: A phased research study identified reform opportunities in Latvia, Malta, and Cyprus, producing 95 technical recommendations that guided UK programme planning.
- AIRE Centre: Initially informal cooperation with Judiciary Training Institutions (JTIs) evolved into formal partnerships via MoUs. JTIs helped assess training needs and target capacity-building efforts effectively.
- IACCC: Capacity-building is initiated only after operational collaboration with law enforcement and prosecutors, ensuring relevance and impact.

Q 6

Coordination & Strategic Alignment

- FCDO: ICAR and IACCC collaborate closely on high-profile cases, focusing on complementary roles to avoid overlap. Both support partner countries through participation in UNODC/StAR Global Action Series workshops for capacity building and information sharing.
- UKCA: Coordination was managed through programme teams, with consultations at Post to identify other initiatives. Training was tailored to UK-specific requirements, ensuring differentiation from other efforts.
- ISF: As a core donor to ICAR and StAR, ISF promotes coherence in global asset recovery efforts through formal donor meetings and informal channels. Project leads must assess existing interventions during scoping to avoid duplication and maximize impact.
- AIRE Centre: Identified the need for better coordination among donors and technical assistance providers. A participatory approach led to increased engagement, with over 30 organisations joining coordination efforts.

Produced the report “Mapping Current Asset Recovery Technical Assistance Projects in the WB”, which:

- Mapped regional projects against thematic areas and standards
- Identified gaps and avoided duplication
- Informed future national strategies and capacity-building plans
- Covered all stages of asset recovery and targeted AROs and AMOs
- Enabled joint work with multiple partners

Q 7

FCDO: Participation in GFAR Action Series. IACCC coordinates information sharing across multiple jurisdictions on behalf of recipient countries in respect of specific cases. Some cases are passed to the UK National Crime Agency for further investigation and action, including asset freeze / seizures.

UKCA: Yes by wider UK but specific to the UKCA we hold regular meetings with requesting states. The Home Office has produced detailed MLA guidelines, which are translated into

Albanian, Bosnian, French, Gulf Arabic, Italian, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Serbian, Spanish and Turkish for authorities outside of the UK who wish to make a MLA request to the UK. The UKCA has developed an Online Submission Form to assist with the transmission of requests to the UKCA. The Form prompts for necessary information required by the UK to execute the measures sought.

5.2. Effectiveness, Evaluations and Assessments of Capacity-Building Efforts

5.2.1. Questions

8. For recipients: Has your country conducted evaluations or assessments of capacity-building received for asset recovery purposes?

9. If yes, please summarize the findings of these evaluations, including any (measurable) outcomes, lessons learned, or challenges identified:

10. For providers: Do you conduct evaluations or assessments of the capacity-building activities you provide?

11. If yes, please provide details about your evaluation processes and any key findings, outcomes or challenges identified.

12. For recipients: Please evaluate the effectiveness of the capacity-building your country has received in asset recovery.

13. For providers: Based on the rating/evaluation conducted by the recipients, or based on your own evaluation, please rate the effectiveness of the capacity-building your organization/country provides in achieving asset recovery outcomes.

14. Please provide an explanation regarding the level of impact you have indicated.

15. For recipients: Please evaluate the effectiveness of the capacity-building your country has received in asset recovery.

16. For providers: Based on the rating/evaluation conducted by the recipients, or based on your own evaluation, please rate the effectiveness of the capacity-building your organization/country provides in achieving asset recovery outcomes.

17. Please provide an explanation regarding the level of impact you have indicated.

Australia

Australia did not provide responses to Questions under this Section except for the rate the effectiveness of the capacity-building and the level of impact. They rated the effectiveness as highly impactful/ However, they noted that the blending of operational assistance with the development of legislative responses was a novel and positive approach. The lessons learned from operations were translated into legislative/policy solutions in real time. Similarly, direct engagement with small groups of officers and prosecutors on ongoing matters was instrumental in the success of the program.

African Union

No responses were provided under Questions 11 and 12 except for Questions 13-17. The AU reported that the evaluation of the effectiveness of capacity-building projects is being assessed. Assessments are based on the feedback from participants and State party reports, which are submitted in compliance with the review procedure under Article 16 of AUCPCC. The effectiveness of the capacity-building received and provided was rated as moderately impactful. A targeted review of asset recovery frameworks led to the creation of the African Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum, which will provide a platform for Asset Recovery agencies and the ACA with an asset recovery mandate to collaborate and exchange information, share best practices and receive case support on asset recovery.

Brazil

No response was provided for this section except for Question 12, where the effectiveness of the capacity-building received and provided was rated as moderately impactful.

China

No response was provided for **Questions 8 & 9 and 12.**

For **Q 10** and **Q 11**, Yes, participants to such activities are usually invited to complete satisfaction surveys after each course. According to the surveys received from the training sessions organized last year, more than 90% of trainees are satisfied with the training outcomes, finding the lessons helpful to their law enforcement practices. However, there are still obstacles, including the lack of willingness to cooperate, inefficient use of existing cooperation mechanisms and tools, and the lack of knowledge of applicable legislation and procedures, among others.

Q 13

The effectiveness of the training provided was rated highly impactful.

Q 14

1. Positive feedback to satisfaction surveys and communicated at official occasions;
2. Improved quality of MLA requests received from recipient countries;
3. Communication on case-related issues with recipient countries is easier and more targeted

France

No response was provided for Questions 8, 9, and 12.

Q 10 & Q 11 - France noted

After the expiration of the French funding of the “Regional platform for West Africa and the Sahel”, in November 2024, an independent audit was launched by experts contracted by UNODC. The audit was published in April 2025.

The audit concludes that the platform's multi-stakeholder approach has fostered trust between stakeholders and ownership by beneficiaries, even if the lack of involvement of regional stakeholders, notably the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), is regrettable.

Q 13 and Q 14 - The effectiveness was rated highly impactful. It was noted that The main added value of the UNODC regional platforms, be it on asset recovery or in other domains, is the emergence of a network of experts in the region, as well as a common commitment to enhance their fight against corruption among neighbouring countries. The platform should be viewed as a tool designed by the partner countries (and not as a “donor driven project”) which should raise the level of commitment against corruption in a participatory manner, while taking into consideration states’ specificities and national contexts. The development of an internal momentum in the region on anticorruption is enhanced by such a regional approach.

Germany

Q 8- No answer

Q 9- No answer

Q 10- Yes

Q 11- Evaluations are conducted immediately after every capacity-building activity through participant feedback surveys to capture satisfaction, relevance, and suggestions for improvement. Additionally, mid-term reviews and final evaluations are performed at the end of each project phase to assess overall effectiveness, outcomes, and impact. These evaluations help identify strengths, lessons learned, and areas requiring adjustments. Key findings often highlight satisfaction with the training methodologies used, the support provided, improved practitioner knowledge, enhanced inter-agency cooperation, and increased operational capacity. Common challenges relate to varying levels of participant readiness, resource constraints particularly to meet the challenge of staff turnover and the need for ongoing follow-up support to sustain gains.

Q 12- No answer

Q 13- Highly impactful

Q 14- The high impact of our capacity-building initiatives is driven by a combination of diverse training modalities, including classroom sessions, practical case support, mentorship, and TOT programs to ensure sustainability. These activities are customized to address the specific needs of partner countries and leverage both virtual and onsite meetings to maximize accessibility and effectiveness.

Since we have programs at global, regional and country levels, the presence on the ground

maintains close engagement with partners, continuously adapting to evolving priorities and fostering trustful cooperation. This tailored, flexible approach enhances knowledge transfer, strengthens institutional capacities, and ultimately contributes to more effective asset recovery outcomes.

India

Q 8- Yes

Q 9-

- Evaluations of capacity-building efforts have shown positive outcomes, including enhanced skills among officers in financial investigations, improved understanding of methods of asset recovery, and more effective use of open-source registries and investigation tools. Tangible results include an increase in successful tracing and recovery of stolen assets and more streamlined cooperation between agencies.
- Additionally, the officer trainees who are recipients of capacity-building initiatives and courses share their learnings and insights with their colleagues through presentations.
- Evaluations are often conducted by ED upon the conclusion of the capacity building programme to gauge the assimilation of knowledge by the participants

Q 10- Yes

Q 11- The evaluations conducted have highlighted the challenge of keeping capacity-building activities current and relevant, as the misuse of emerging technologies, such as virtual assets and online betting platforms, for the purpose of money laundering continues to evolve rapidly. This underscores the need for continual updates to these initiatives/programmes to address new and emerging forms of corruption.

Q 12- Highly impactful

Q 13- Highly impactful

Q 14- Evaluations of capacity-building efforts have shown positive outcomes, including enhanced skills among officers in financial investigations, improved understanding of methods of asset recovery, and more effective use of open-source registries and investigation tools. Measurable results include an increase in successful tracing and recovery of stolen assets and more streamlined cooperation between agencies.

Indonesia

Q 8- No

Q 9- No answer

Q 10- Yes

Q 11- Evaluation Process:

KPK consistently conducts evaluation phases as part of its quality control framework to ensure that the training delivered is truly effective, relevant, and provides tangible impact for both participants and the organization. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are in place to guide

these evaluations. The evaluation process generally consists of the following elements (for Asset Recovery training, it is essential to conduct at least the first and second levels of the evaluation process):

Level 1: Reaction (measures immediate response of participants to the training)

Level 2: Learning (assesses the knowledge and competencies acquired by participants through pre and post-test)

Level 3: Behaviour (evaluates whether participants are applying the skills and knowledge gained from the training in their work or other relevant units)

Level 4: Impact/Results (examine the broader impact of the training on the organizational performance). However, this level is currently under development and has not been fully implemented.

Findings:

The training positively impacted participants' competencies—both technical and non-technical—and fostered more effective inter-agency collaboration.

Challenges:

- a. Some specific topics cannot be covered due to time constraints
- b. Different levels of participant's prior knowledge
- c. Technical challenges in conducting trans- border investigation.

The evaluation result serves as a requirement for budget accountability as well as a foundation for continuous improvement and to develop future training programs.

Q 12- Highly impactful

Q 13- Moderately impactful

Q 14- Based on the evaluation, the asset recovery training programs organized by KPK were considered to have a significant impact on enhancing both individual and organizational capacity. Participants demonstrated improved knowledge and understanding, particularly in topics such as financial investigation techniques, asset-tracing and profiling, and understanding mechanisms of international cooperation.

Additionally, the training is also expected to strengthen staff confidence in establishing cross-border and international institutional cooperation, especially in handling transnational corruption and money laundering cases.

Ireland

Q 8- No

Q 9- Not Applicable

Q 10- No answer

Q 11- No answer

Q 12- Neutral

Q 13- No answer

Q 14- The Garda National Economic Crime Bureau (GNECB) has received adequate training, however the opportunity to recover assets overseas has not presented. GNECB is therefore not in a position to evaluate the effectiveness of the capacity building in asset recover

Italy

Q 8- No

Q 9- Established in 2016, the Inter-Institutional Anti-Corruption Coordination Table serves as a permanent mechanism for ensuring coherence and synergy among all national stakeholders engaged in anti-corruption and asset recovery. Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), it gathers representatives from ministries, independent authorities, law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, academia, the private sector, and civil society, all institutions. This mechanism allows for effective coordination of technical assistance requests, the sharing of good practices, and the alignment of Italy's international positions. The Table is widely recognized as a model of governance ensuring inclusiveness, consistency, and strategic direction in international anti-corruption policy.

Q 10

Italy plays a **leading role** in global and regional asset recovery mechanisms, including INTERPOL's Silver Notice System, whose working group is led by an Italian LEO, the Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR), and Asset Recovery Interagency Networks (ARINs). Through the European Union's EL PACCTO 2.0 Programme, Italy has also promoted the alignment of regional asset recovery guidelines with G20 and Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) standards. This proactive engagement fosters operational coherence, strengthens international coordination, and facilitates the exchange of expertise among jurisdictions.

Q 11- No answer

Q 12- No answer

Q 13- Highly impactful

Q 14- Creation of agencies;

Increasing of confiscations and of the amount of assets confiscated;

Paradigm Shift;

Japan

Q 8- N/A

Q 9- N/A

Q 10- Yes

Q 11- We conduct surveys of the participants during and after training programmes using questionnaires and obtain feedback from them.

Q 12- N/A

Q 13- Highly impactful

Q 14- All the participants responded positively to the questions “I have achieved the course objective.” and “The knowledge and experience gained from this program can be fully utilized in my work.”

Netherlands

Q 8- No

Q 9- No answer

Q 10- No

Q 11- No answer

Q 12- No answer

Q 13- No answer

Q 14- No answer

Nigeria

Q 8- No answer

Q 9- No answer

Q 10- No answer

Q 11- No answer

Q 12- Highly impactful

Q 13- No answer

Q 14- No answer

Norway

Q 8- No answer

Q 9- No answer

Q 10- Yes

Q 11- For UNODC: Mid_term_Evaluation_Brief_GLOZ99.pdf

UNODC Programme (2016–2020 Evaluation)

Effectiveness: Highly effective at the output level, responding to States parties' needs and supporting UNCAC implementation.

Support Areas: Strengthened legal frameworks, policies, institutional and individual capacities, and promoted international cooperation.

Tailored Assistance: Used diverse technical assistance modalities adapted to country-specific needs for optimal results.

Challenges: Limited regional presence hindered deeper contextual engagement; expanding regional staffing is recommended.

Strategic Framework: The broad theory of change allows flexibility but can dilute focus on UNODC's comparative strengths.

Pandemic Response: Adapted quickly with online tools and new knowledge products to meet emerging needs.

Donor Base: Supported by a wide coalition of governments, international organizations, and private sector entities.

ICAR Operational Capacity

Relevance & Impact: Highly effective in transition and developing countries, especially through case support and Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA).

Strengths:

- Strong technical expertise and contextual understanding.
- Valuable MLA support via international networks.
- Effective in-person and online training.
- Influential policy/legal advice leading to institutional reforms.

Challenges:

- Risk of training fatigue.
- Resource constraints in partner countries.
- High turnover of trained officials.
- Difficulty sourcing appropriately skilled experts.
- Knowledge Leadership: Excels in developing and sharing knowledge; encouraged to expand this role.
- Strategic Balance: The 80/20 split between technical assistance and global advocacy is deemed appropriate.
- Strategic Update: Evaluation informed the development of ICAR's 2025–2028 strategy.

Q 12- No answer

Q 13- Moderately impactful

Q 14- Still much to do – particularly in the last part of the recovery and return process, in dealing with non-cooperative jurisdictions and jurisdictions with high degree of secrecy, the role of professional service providers.

Portugal

Q 8- No

Q 9- No answer

Q 10- No

Q 11- No answer

Q 12- Highly impactful

Q.13- Highly impactful (ARO) Slightly impactful (AMO)

Q 14- The ARO's perspective is built on the appreciation expressed and the outcomes of entities which have received training.

The AMO's perspective is built on the fact that results could be significantly higher if the recipient national asset management organization benefited from more human resources, specific training and was equipped with practical means of rationalization (assessment, maintenance, repair, valuation of assets)

Russia

Q 8- No answer

Q 9- No answer

Q 10- Yes

Q 11- The initiatives organised by the ITMCFM conclude with the circulation of a survey to their participants to inquire, inter alia, whether the participants are satisfied with the subject matter as regards AML/CFT/PF and the content of the capacity-building initiative, its practical usefulness, qualification of the lecturers and their interaction with the audience.

Q 12- No answer

Q 13- Moderately impactful

Q 14- Based on the assessments, the initiatives organised by the ITMCFM are considered to be highly impactful. At the same time, the real impact of capacity building depends prevalently on whether the recipients further use the knowledge acquired in practice rather than on the effort of its providers.

As regards knowledge-sharing, the materials provided by national competent authorities on specific legal provisions are employed by foreign partners in drafting/amending their domestic legislation.

Saudi Arabia

Q 8- Yes

Q 9- The programs contributed to enhancing understanding of the types of recovered assets, methods of handling them, and the mechanisms involved in asset recovery. It also provided an

opportunity to learn from the experiences of participating countries and identify best practices for developing investigation strategies aimed at asset recovery in criminal cases.

One of the key challenges noted is the limited availability of similar programs that focus on successful international experiences in this field

Q 10- Yes

Q 11- Evaluation forms were distributed to participants who attended and completed the required hours of the training program. The purpose was to assess the program, analyze the feedback, and compile a report on the findings. The questionnaire covered several areas, including: trainer evaluation, assessment of the training program, overall program evaluation, key knowledge and skills gained, and main comments and suggestions provided by the trainees.

The evaluation results for the asset recovery training programs received an overall rating of "Excellent". Participants indicated that the programs contributed to the development of their skills. The feedback also highlighted the need to increase the number of similar courses to enhance knowledge transfer and allow for broader participation by other countries to exchange experiences in the field of asset recovery.

Q 12- Highly impactful

Q 13- Highly impactful

Q 14- The training programs contributed to enhancing participants' skills and deepening their understanding of the importance of utilizing financial intelligence to ensure the success of asset recovery efforts. They also addressed elements of investigations and coordination among multiple stakeholders in complex cases, asset management post-recovery, and certain mechanisms of both formal and informal international cooperation in the asset recovery process.

South Africa

Q 8- No answer

Q 9- Not for AFU

Q 10- Yes

Q 11- Evaluation process

a. Observations

b. Written assessments

Challenges identified

- South Africa has a mixed legal system based on British common law, Roman Dutch law and customary law.
- Not all country participants in the Prosecutor Placement Programme follow a similar type of common law or adversarial legal process system.
- The difference between the adversarial and inquisitorial legal process systems provides significant challenges in respect of both training and asset recovery legal/ technical assistance.

- Further, no general database exists containing updated asset recovery legislation, practice, procedure and case law for each participating country.

Q 12- No answer

Q 13- Highly impactful

Q 14- Training was well received.

SA experts have further been requested for further assistance in specific cases

Spain

No response for **Q 8** and **Q 9**

Q 10 and **Q 11** Yes, Evaluation process include FIAP:

- Internal monitoring through logical frameworks and performance indicators.
- Independent external evaluations at the midterm and end-of-project stages.
- Outcome-based assessment focusing on improved capacities and inter-agency cooperation.
- Challenges identified: sustainability of impact due to staff turnover, legal bottlenecks delaying reforms, political instability, risky environment, and variability in political will. Regarding initiative No. 2 (High-Level Seminar on Money Laundering and the Fight Against Organized Crime) above, and based on the activity monitoring mechanism at the end of each cycle, a conclusions document is prepared and used to create an "Ibero-American Report on Money Laundering."

This document covers regional and sectoral issues, including each phase or dimension of the money-laundering phenomenon, and is prepared with the participation of the various bodies and institutions involved. It focuses on legislative developments, pioneering experiences or best practices identified during the virtual seminars. The analysis of this information was used as input for the "Ibero-American Diagnostic Report and Action Plan in the Fight against Money Laundering."

Q 12

Moderately impactful (National Police, Guardia Civil)

Q 13

Highly impactful (FIAP, CITCO) Moderately impactful (Ministry of Justice, National Police)

Q 14 Here's a concise summary of the impact and observations across the listed institutions:

FIAP's capacity-building efforts have led to institutional improvements and knowledge transfer, but challenges like legal limitations, political instability, and resource constraints in some countries have hindered full asset recovery implementation. Sustained engagement and political will are essential for greater impact. The Ministry of Justice's initiative showed moderate results due to insufficient follow-up, highlighting the need for high-level meetings to drive institutional commitment and action.

The National Police's awareness and training efforts have successfully increased the

identification and seizure of illicit assets.

Guardia Civil's ongoing training in asset tracking has significantly improved investigative effectiveness, though current impact assessments are limited to police perspectives.

CITCO provides advanced tools and expertise tailored to country needs, enhancing national systems for combating money laundering and asset recovery through improved inter-agency collaboration and technical capacity.

Turkey

Q8- No

Q9- No answer

Q10- No

Q11- No answer

Q12- Moderately impactful

Q13- No answer

Q14- No answer

United Kingdom

Q 8, Q 9, Q 10

Q 11

Summary of Evaluations & Outcomes

UKCA Project: Monitored outcomes included an increase in asset recovery requests to the UK and improved quality of those requests.

- European Illicit Finance Capacity Development Project
- Delivered targeted training and strategic mentoring to officials.
- Achieved strongest results in countries with high political will.
- Conducted “ecosystem” mapping to identify stakeholders and weaknesses, improving coordination and informing reforms.
- Advice on Individual Rights in Europe
- Post-seminar evaluations showed improved understanding of ECtHR jurisprudence.
- Enhanced capacity of prosecutors, judges, and investigators in asset recovery.
- Strengthened regional cooperation through the Asset Recovery Network.
- Coordinated with other regional projects for broader impact.

Key Lessons Learned

- Tailored support and mentorship yield strong results.
- Regional networks enhance asset recovery effectiveness.
- Ecosystem mapping simplifies complex systems and drives reform.
- Coordination among donors and projects improves efficiency and strategic planning.



Q 12

No response

Q 13

Moderately impactful

Q 14

UKCA: The recipients provided positive feedback. The training led to requests for Mutual Legal Assistance being submitted to the UKCA in corruption investigations. The requests were able to be executed. Some requests still required additional refinement.

FCDO: Providers meeting or exceeding results framework targets for capacity development activities.

AIRE: The regular incorporation of asset recovery procedures into judicial processes in the WB over the last three years is the result of comprehensive legislative reforms, institutional strengthening, enhanced international cooperation, technological advancements, increased political will (although at times still insufficient), the growing pressure from the public to penalise corruption and crime, the significant developments in case law, and financial incentives and sanctions. These elements have collectively created a more enabling framework that supports effective asset recovery in the region's fight against corruption and organised crime. Shown in the asset confiscation in Montenegro and the first case of opening digital valet during a SOC case where both prosecutors had been trained as part of this project.

5.3. Challenges and Gaps

15. What are the main challenges faced in [implementing/benefiting from - please underline which applies] capacity-building initiatives in asset recovery?

16. How do you suggest these challenges could be addressed?

Australia

No response provided

African Union

Q 15

Insufficient funding or resources; lack of co-operation in requests for assistance, insufficient legal or institutional frameworks, limited access to international cooperation or networks, and difficulties in retaining trained public officials.

Q 16

Forums such as the African Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum (AARP-Forum) should be utilized and supported as they create an avenue for practitioners to interact and have direct access to themselves. There is a need to provide country-specific support in enhancing their asset recovery framework.

Brazil

Q 15

- Insufficient funding or resources
- Delays in international co-operation
- Insufficient legal or institutional frameworks.

Q 16

Raising awareness of the issues internally and in international forums; working internally to propose and institutionally support legislative and normative changes that increase the capacities of our units in asset recovery.

China

Q 15

Insufficient funding and resources, lack of tailored programmes addressing specific country needs and the investment of resources into capacity-building initiatives is yet to be fully translated to concrete outcomes and successful cooperation in asset recovery.

Q 16

First, to address the issue of lack of willingness, it is recommended that G20 members stand together against the tendency of politicizing normal judicial and law enforcement cooperation, jointly voice out for denial of safe haven and asset recovery, and other shared concerns for smoother international anti-corruption cooperation. Second, make the best use of existing multilateral networks and tools. Informal cooperation can greatly support formal cooperation and contribute to a successful asset recovery case. For example the GlobE Network, which provides its members with a secure electronic communication platform and a regularly updated directory of focal points. It also provides various types of training annually. And it is not only a GlobE story, we believe that to better facilitate international asset recovery cooperation, participation in international platforms such as the GlobE Network, INTERPOL, among others, should be deepened and expanded. Third, promote better understanding of different legal systems. There is dire need for the global anti-corruption community to have at hand a pool of readily available resources that help us to understand each other's legislation and procedures. As part of the efforts towards this goal, we are now working with UNODC on a knowledge

product called Denial of Safe Haven, Compendium of Legislation and Practice.

France

Q 15 - Insufficient funding or resources

Q 16

The implementation of a regional approach under the mentorship of a regional or global actor, such as the UNODC;

The emphasis on donor coordination – especially in some areas where many of them are present, such as Western Africa – and synergies in a context where financial resources are limited;

The development of a rapid response capability in order to act where and when there is political will, which allows for the enhanced impact of capacity building projects

Germany

Q 15

- a. Insufficient funding or resources
- b. Delays in international co-operation
- c. Limited capacity to absorb or implement assistance
- d. Insufficient legal or institutional frameworks e. Difficulties in retaining trained public officials

Q 16

- a. Encourage governments to prioritize asset recovery at the national level through dedicated policies, funding, and institutional support.
- b. Allocate sufficient domestic resources to ensure sustainability and reduce overreliance on external technical assistance.
- c. Establish or strengthen national and regional training institutes to coordinate standardized asset recovery training, certification, and practitioner development.
- d. Promote institutional anchoring of asset recovery units within core anticorruption and law enforcement bodies to ensure long-term capacity.
- e. Integrate asset recovery into national development and justice sector strategies to elevate its profile and resourcing.

India

Q 15

- a. Lack of co-operation in requests for assistance
- b. Delays in international co-operation

- c. Limitations and/or divergences in legal and operational frameworks;
- d. Disparities in exchange processes, tools, and data formats compared to counterparts.

Q 16

The challenges can be addressed through optimising the training programs offered by the international platforms like GlobE Network, UNODC, FATF etc.

Indonesia

Q 15

- a. Insufficient funding or resources
- b. Lack of co-operation in requests for assistance
- c. Delays in international co-operation

Other main challenges:

The complex nature of transnational asset recovery are not fully accommodated by the currently available training modules.

Q 16

To overcome the challenges in asset recovery capacity-building, countries should adopt a strategic and collaborative approach. Addressing funding gaps requires stronger engagement with international donors and alignment of national priorities with global anti-corruption efforts

Ireland

Q 15

- a. Insufficient resources
- b. Lack of co-operation in requests for assistance
- c. Delays in international co-operation

Q 16

- a. Additional resources be allocated to Economic Crime investigations / Asset Recovery investigations.
- b. Improved and prompt responses to requests for Mutual Legal Assistance

Italy

Q 15 - No answer

Q 16 - No answer

Japan

Q15 - Difficulties in retaining trained public officials

Q16 - Retaining competent participants in the program can be a challenge. Providing recipient counterparts/agencies with adequate information about the program is the key, which may be done through international cooperation networks or through local embassies.

Netherlands

Q15

Delays in international co-operation.

International mutual legal assistance takes time and capacity to execute MLA requests is sometimes lacking. In addition, the lack of (international) legal options for freezing/seizure and/or confiscation can be a problem.

There are no international conventions/rules that provide the freezing/seizure for the purpose of restitution to a victim or compensation to a victim. Seizure can only be done indirectly for the purpose of object confiscation or value confiscation.

Q16

Next to freezing/seizure for the purpose of object confiscation, value confiscation or non conviction based confiscation we (= the international community) should work towards an international convention or extension of the existing confiscation conventions on the basis of which freezing/seizing for the purpose of restitution to rightful owners or compensation to victims becomes possible.

Nigeria

Q15

- a. Insufficient funding or resources;
- b. Lack of co-operation in requests for assistance;
- c. Delays in international co-operation;
- d. Lack of tailored programmes addressing specific country needs;
- e. Insufficient legal or institutional frameworks;
- f. Limited access to international cooperation or networks;
- g. Bank secrecy

Q16

- a. General barriers and institutional issues: promoting political will to identify asset recovery as a priority and strengthening anti-money laundering measures to prevent asset flight.
- b. Legal barriers and requirements that delay assistance: removing onerous requirements for

mutual legal assistance, banking secrecy, facilitation of non-conviction-based recovery procedures and easing evidentiary and procedural legislation.

c. Operational barriers and communication issues: removing the difficulty in identifying contact points in other countries and delays in processing mutual legal assistance requests and training on properly drafted requests.

Norway

Q 15

- a. Insufficient funding or resources
- b. Lack of co-operation in requests for assistance
- c. Insufficient legal or institutional frameworks
- d. Lack of cooperation and accountability in terms of responding to MLAs of some countries.
- e. Political interference in legal process and selection of cases.

Q 16 - No answer

Portugal

Q 15

- Insufficient funding or resources (ARO and AMO)
- Lack of co-operation in requests for assistance (AMO)
- Delays in international co-operation (ARO and AMO)
- Lack of tailored programmes addressing specific country needs (ARO)
- Insufficient legal or institutional frameworks (AMO)
- Limited access to international cooperation or networks (AMO)
- Difficulties in retaining trained public officials (AMO)

AMO:

- Increasing number of intervention requests;
- Associated divisions within the organizational structure that allow for specialized management in accordance with the AMO's specific areas of activity, particularly in sales, allocation to a public purpose, real estate, asset registration in favour of the State, write-offs, among others.

Q 16

AMO:

- Creation of an IT platform for all entities involved in asset recovery (please note that this is already underway)
- Organic changes, with the creation of specialized departments/divisions

- Increasing staff
- Agreements with other entities
- Dissemination and awareness-raising among courts and other involved entities about the functions of the AMO
- Dedicated AMO spaces for asset storage
- Monitoring of financial assets

Russia

Q 15

- a. Insufficient funding or resources;
- b. Insufficient legal or institutional frameworks;
- c. Limited access to international cooperation or networks;
- d. Difficulties in retaining trained public officials.

Q 16

These challenges could be addressed, in particular, by ensuring that the provision of capacity-building support is free from undue political influence and by prioritizing capacity building in the allocation of funds.

Saudi Arabia

Q 15

Delays in international co-operation

Lack of tailored programmes addressing specific country needs

Q 16

Challenges in capacity-building initiatives for asset recovery, particularly delays in international cooperation and lack of tailored programs addressing specific country needs can be addressed through the following;

- Addressing delays in International Cooperation:
- Strengthen informal cooperation channels and leverage all available networks and forums.
- Streamline the MLA processes by developing standardized MLA templates and guidelines, shared via platforms like UNODC's SHERLOC, to reduce errors and expedite approvals.
- Addressing Lack of Tailored Programs for Specific Country Needs:
- Conducting a context-specific needs assessment, and performing a detailed assessment of asset recovery gaps.
- Developing a customized training module, by creating training programs tailored to specific needs, covering areas like financial investigations, NCB forfeiture, or virtual

asset recovery. Incorporate Arabic language and case studies relevant to the region.

South Africa

Q 15

- a. Insufficient funding or resources

Q 16

- a. The AFU introduced an online pilot training programme for both the Prosecutor and Investigator Placement Programmes.
- b. These pilot training programmes have already been rolled out with the assistance of the UNODC and the University of Cape Town (South Africa).

Spain

Q 15

- a. Insufficient funding or resources
- b. Lack of co-operation in requests for assistance
- c. Delays in international co-operation
- d. Limited capacity to absorb or implement assistance
- e. Insufficient legal or institutional frameworks
- f. Limited access to international cooperation or networks
- g. Difficulties in retaining trained public officials

Q 16

FIAP (capacity-building):

1. Ensure long-term, flexible funding and programme cycles.
2. Encourage political ownership through national roadmaps for asset recovery.
3. Strengthen domestic legislation with technical legal advice.
4. Promote regional networks for peer support and rapid cooperation.
5. Institutionalise training within national training academies.
6. Foster south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange among practitioners.

Ministry of Justice (international cooperation in cross-border asset recovery):

- a. Promote meetings among stakeholders from different countries to build trust and a stable network of contacts, and international cooperation.
- b. Within the framework of domestic legislation, establish rapid and direct coordination channels, leveraging new technologies.
- c. Promote the creation of joint investigation teams on transnational money laundering, financial crime with a special focus on asset recovery, in a sustained strategy.
- d. Facilitate the execution of confiscation or seizure orders issued by authorities in another country. Which may result in a final asset-sharing agreement between the requesting and requested authorities at the time of final confiscation, within the scope of organized crime and money laundering.
- e. It is necessary to modify existing legal instruments or create new ones to provide sufficient legal bases that enable investigative measures to be carried out in the execution phase, allowing the location of assets or carrying out the operations

necessary for effective confiscation.

Guardia Civil (delays in international co-operation):

Establish direct, pre-approved communication channels and leverage secure digital platforms to enhance cooperation, streamline information exchange and facilitate the work of specialized asset recovery units, whose specialization allows for the rapid identification of key financial intelligence, fostering more efficient bilateral and multilateral exchanges with foreign counterparts and financial institutions

Turkey

Q 15

- Lack of tailored programmes addressing specific country needs
- Inconsistent capabilities across agencies.
- Competing priorities and limited capacity in specialist teams.
- Lack of public metrics and transparency on recovery outcomes.

Q 16 - No response provided

United Kingdom

Q 15

- Insufficient funding or resources
- Delays in international co-operation
- Insufficient legal or institutional frameworks
- Difficulties in retaining trained public officials

Q 16

FCDO: Organisations such as StAR and UNODC and others are well-placed to support development of good practice and diagnostic tools for use by implementing partners and countries wishing to undertake asset recovery. Support should be available to ensure good practice and diagnostic tools are tailored specific contexts (eg legal systems, capacity) and to the specific needs in any given setting. Operational assistance should be linked to or coordinated with capacity building, work on institutional frameworks etc.

UKCA: The UKCA used the ‘train the trainer’ model to encourage the training to be embedded beyond the few delegates that could be trained and produced guidance to be utilised

Best Practices

- Blended Assistance: Combining legislative/policy support with operational mentoring.
- Regional Inclusion: Funding participation from Pacific nations.
- Normative Influence: Shaping international standards through CARIN and APG.
- Cross-Border Engagement: AFP liaison officers and mutual legal assistance frameworks.

5.4. Recommendations and Future Needs

Questions

17. For recipients: What additional types of capacity-building and knowledge-sharing would you prioritize to strengthen asset recovery capabilities in your country and move forward concrete cases?

18. For recipients: Are there areas in which you would like to receive capacity-building, but no assistance programme addresses this particular aspect?

19. What recommendations would your country propose to improve cooperation and the delivery and effectiveness of capacity-building and knowledge-sharing in cross-border asset recovery?

20. What role can G20 countries play in supporting more effective asset recovery, including capacity-building and knowledge-sharing efforts?

21. What could multilateral organizations, networks or providers offer to improve the efficiency of asset recovery (e.g. ARINs, StAR, African Union Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum)?

5.4.2. African Union

Q 17

Additional support may include development of an asset management system, case support – understanding legal systems and requirements of foreign jurisdictions where assets are usually found such as Switzerland, USA, UAE and development of an asset recovery guideline.

Q 18

Case support – understanding the legal systems and requirements of foreign jurisdictions where assets are usually found such as Switzerland, USA, UAE, development of an asset recovery framework (Institutions and policy/laws).

Q 19

Collaboration with regional and continental bodies such as the AUABC.

Q 20

Streamline asset recovery efforts and processes in line with commitments of the UNCAC, AUCPCC; Facilitate Mutual Legal Assistance with African countries – not only during trainings but during real-time case processes. Simplify MLAs – standardize templates, clarity of requirements and feedback, invest in capacity building – support technical training of prosecutors, investigators in African countries so they can understand and navigate asset recovery mechanisms; promote knowledge sharing – secondments, participation in knowledge sharing networks and adopt return policies that are not cumbersome to adhere to but are fair and easy to navigate.

Q 21

Individual case support and provision of technical experts to support country needs.

Australia

No response provided

Brazil

Q 17

Practical courses about international cooperation involving working in transnational cases and drafting MLAs.

Q 18

None were identified

Q 19

The effectiveness of the programs will largely depend on the experience of those providing it. Usually, theoretical programs will not address the needs of practitioners. So, we would recommend that courses and programs be staffed with highly experienced practitioners to help the needs of the recipients of the courses in practice.

Q 20 & 21

Supporting financially and operationally practical and useful programs in asset recovery.

China

No response was given for Q 17 and Q 18

For Q 19, Q 20 and Q 21, First, to address the issue of lack of willingness, it is recommended that G20 members stand together against the tendency of politicizing normal judicial and law enforcement cooperation, jointly voice out for denial of safe haven and asset recovery, and other shared concerns for smoother international anti-corruption cooperation. Second, make the best use of existing multilateral networks and tools. Informal cooperation can greatly support formal cooperation and contribute to a successful asset recovery case. For example the GlobE Network, which provides its members with a secure electronic communication platform and a regularly updated directory of focal points. It also provides various types of training annually. And it is not only a GlobE story, we believe that to better facilitate international asset recovery cooperation, participation in international platforms such as the GlobE Network, INTERPOL, among others, should be deepened and expanded. Third, promote better understanding of different legal systems. There is dire need for the global anti-corruption community to have at hand a pool of readily available resources that help us to understand each other's legislation and procedures. As part of the efforts towards this goal, we are now working with UNODC on a knowledge product called Denial of Safe Haven – Compendium of Legislation and Practice.

France

No response provided for Q 17 & Q 18

Q 19

- The implementation of a regional approach under the mentorship of a regional or global actor, such as the UNODC;
- The emphasis on donor coordination – especially in some areas where many of them are present, such as Western Africa – and synergies in a context where financial resources are limited;
- The development of a rapid response capability in order to act where and when there is political will, which allows for the enhanced impact of capacity building projects

Q 20 and Q 21

Develop a cooperation with network of providers of technical assistance (StAR, ACTT) to enhance coordination among donors.

Germany

No response provided for Q 17 and Q 18

Q 19

- a. Ensure capacity-building is needs-driven and closely linked to real operational challenges and legal frameworks in the recipient countries.

- b. TA coordination platform at partner level to align capacity-building efforts, reduce duplication, and promote synergy among technical assistance providers
- c. Encourage stronger political commitment and increased domestic resource allocation for asset recovery offices, bolster interagency collaboration, and promote sustained engagement in practitioner networks to ensure long-term impact and operational effectiveness

Q 20

- a. Prioritize asset recovery and asset management in global anticorruption and financial integrity agendas, reinforcing commitments to international cooperation.
- b. Support sustainable, country-led capacity-building through funding for national and regional training institutes, with a focus on the entire asset recovery cycle, including seizure, confiscation, management, and return.
- c. Facilitate timely, transparent cooperation in the tracing, freezing, confiscation, and return of assets.
- d. Promote peer learning and practitioner exchange via cross-border networks such as ARINs.
- e. Champion reforms in legal and institutional frameworks to strengthen asset recovery mechanisms, ensure transparent and accountable return, and build national systems for the effective management of recovered assets.
- f. Support the development of asset management capacity to ensure seized assets are used to benefit victims or reinvested in development efforts

Q 21

- a. Strengthen coordination and knowledge-sharing through platforms, secondments, and exchange programs to promote peer learning, joint casework, and best practices.
- b. Support the establishment and development of asset recovery training institutes, including certified curricula and comprehensive capacity-building programs for practitioners.
- c. Utilize ARINs to facilitate inter-jurisdictional cooperation aimed at overcoming legal and procedural barriers to mutual legal assistance.
- d. Promote the development and dissemination of practical tools such as multilingual guidance materials, templates, databases, and case studies covering asset tracing, management, and return.
- e. Support the dissemination of best practices and learning on asset management frameworks to ensure recovered assets are preserved and effectively reinvested for public benefit.

India

Q 17

The following additional types of capacity-building and knowledge-sharing can be prioritized:

1. Advanced Digital Forensics and Cyber Investigation Training: With the rise of virtual assets and digital financial transactions, specialized training on tracing cryptocurrencies, blockchain

analysis, and cyber forensics is critical.

2. Developing platforms for sharing case studies and peer learning.

Q 19

- Automated Inter-Agency Data Sharing: Real-time alerts for suspicious wealth, cross-border transactions.
- Joint investigations to enhance cooperation and knowledge sharing amongst ED officers and foreign counterparts
- Open-source Beneficial Ownership Registries
- Standard SOPs and MOUs: Templates for cooperation, confidentiality, evidence handling.
- Joint Certifications and training programmes: Create common expertise across financial crime domains.

Q 20

G20 can bring about a better coordination amongst foreign counterparts by increasing direct agency to agency interactions by facilitating knowledge sharing among member nations regarding best practices developed to ensure asset recovery.

Q 21

No response provided for Questions 18 and 21

Indonesia

Q 17

Additional types of capacity building and knowledge sharing to prioritize:

- a. knowledge sharing from a specific country (e.g. US, Singapore) on how other countries can recover asset from their jurisdiction, including: legal systems and regulations, as well as the civil, criminal, and administrative actions that can be used to identify, trace, and recover stolen assets in that country (including cryptocurrencies and other digital assets); and how to enforce foreign court verdict in that jurisdiction.
- b. Raising awareness and capacity building for judges to enhance judges' understanding and sensitivity in issuing clear and more effective verdicts that meet international standards for MLA and asset recovery. Such as knowledge sharing session between judicial associations with focus on MLA and international asset recovery topics.

Q 18

Based on needs analysis conducted by the KPK, in addition to asset recovery, several areas have been identified as priority capacity-building needs. However, there are currently few support programs or partnerships that specifically address these areas.

These areas include:

- a. Cryptocurrency-based corruption investigation techniques
- b. Confiscation and management of cryptocurrency assets during enforcement proceedings
- c. Optimizing the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to support investigative techniques

Q 19

To improve the effectiveness of cross-border asset recovery capacity-building cooperation, it is important to have strong coordination with a wide range of stakeholders. These include donor agencies, international partners, law enforcement agencies as well as other relevant domestic institutions.

Capacity building programs should be based on actual needs and other relevant issues, such as mutual legal assistance procedures, managing assets outside jurisdiction, and utilizing technology for digital asset tracing—ensuring that the materials are targeted and directly applicable.

In addition, cooperation should also include systematic and comprehensive evaluation and monitoring, so that the tangible benefits can be accounted properly.

Q 20

The G20 countries—representing the world’s largest economies—have a unique and powerful role to play in supporting more effective asset recovery, particularly through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing.

- a. Creating global repositories of case studies.
- b. Training programs for investigators, prosecutors, and judges on tracing, freezing, and confiscating illicit assets.
- c. Technical assistance to help countries develop and implement effective asset recovery laws and procedures

Q 21

To further enhance their impact in asset recovery, multilateral organizations and networks could adopt a more holistic and strategic approach that integrates technology, capacity building, and collaboration.

Capacity building remains important for asset recovery. Training programs for investigators, prosecutors, and judges help build the technical and legal expertise needed to handle complex cases. These efforts should be tailored to local contexts and supported by ongoing mentorship and peer learning. Equally important is the sharing of best practices. By documenting successful case studies and lessons learned, organizations can help practitioners replicate effective strategies and avoid common pitfalls. Finally, facilitating informal cooperation is a powerful tool for overcoming bureaucratic hurdles. This also can be supported by the development of digital platforms for real-time collaboration to improve the speed and effectiveness of cross-border investigations.

Ireland

Q 17

Prioritise improved knowledge sharing through Public-Private Partnerships focusing on collaboration with banks, fintechs, and crypto platforms regarding money laundering and asset seizure and forfeiture.

The justification for this is that these entities often hold key data for tracing and freezing assets. It would be necessary to develop secure, GDPR-compliant data-sharing protocols to achieve success in this area.

Q 18

No. the capacity building provided is sufficient and addresses current training requirements.

Q 19

While formal MLA processes are essential, informal cooperation mechanisms such as direct communication between law enforcement agencies can significantly speed up asset tracing and recovery. I would propose the expanded participation in networks like the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN) and encourage the use of secure digital platforms for evidence exchange.

Q 20

G20 countries should promote and lead by example in the following:

- a. Implementing beneficial ownership registries to trace illicit assets.
- b. Supporting global initiatives like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and StAR (Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative)

Q 21

Multilateral organizations, networks, and providers can significantly enhance the efficiency of asset recovery by fostering rapid, informal cooperation among practitioners, and offering targeted technical assistance. Through initiatives like the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Networks (ARINs), the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), and regional forums, they facilitate real-time information exchange, build trust across jurisdictions, and deliver specialised training. By investing in secure digital platforms, expanding peer-to-peer learning, and advocating for transparency and beneficial ownership disclosure, these entities help streamline cross-border asset tracing, freezing, and repatriation efforts

Italy

No response provided for Q 17 & Q 18

Q 19

The text outlines a comprehensive anti-corruption strategy built on four interconnected pillars: capacity building, institutional strengthening, legal framework development, and consensus building. It emphasizes that training alone is insufficient without inclusive engagement from civil society, academia, youth, media, and the private sector, in collaboration with public

institutions. Strengthening national institutions across all branches of government is essential, but must be complemented by modernizing legal and regulatory frameworks, supported by accountability and political will.

Consensus building is highlighted as a crosscutting element that ensures the effective implementation of technical measures by fostering shared values around justice and the rule of law. The approach calls for dynamic, flexible, and context-sensitive technical assistance, with continuous adaptation to local needs. It also stresses the importance of coordinated efforts among donors and implementers to avoid duplication and maximize impact. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is deemed essential to ensure the integrity of anti-corruption efforts.

Q 20

Expansion of the efforts

Q 21

The Guidelines of EL PACCTO 2.0 in the asset recovery cooperation at international level will be inspired to the G20 ACWG's ones.

Q 22

A defining feature of Italy's approach to asset recovery is its emphasis on cultivating a culture of legality as a foundation for sustainable anti-corruption reform. Through public outreach, educational initiatives, and institutional testimonies, Italy has worked to build a shared societal consensus that integrity and legality must underpin both public and private conduct. This long-term cultural strategy complements institutional and legal reforms, ensuring that the values of transparency, accountability, and justice are deeply rooted within communities and generations.

Italy has developed a holistic and forward-looking technical assistance framework structured around four interdependent pillars:

- **Capacity Building:** enhancing the skills and operational capabilities of judicial and law enforcement actors, while empowering civil society and the private sector to contribute to integrity systems.
 - **Institution Building:** consolidating transparent, efficient, and accountable institutions across the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.
 - **Law Building:** modernizing and harmonizing legal and regulatory frameworks to address emerging corruption and asset recovery challenges.
 - **Consensus Building:** fostering a shared culture of legality, ethics, and rule of law values to sustain reforms and societal engagement.
- This comprehensive framework ensures that technical, institutional, and normative reforms are reinforced by ethical and cultural transformation, promoting durable and replicable results.

Q 24

Italy plays a **leading role** in global and regional asset recovery mechanisms, including INTERPOL's Silver Notice System, whose working group is led by an Italian LEO, the Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR), and Asset Recovery Interagency Networks (ARINs). Through the European Union's EL PACCTO 2.0 Programme, Italy has also promoted the

alignment of regional asset recovery guidelines with G20 and Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) standards. This proactive engagement fosters operational coherence, strengthens international coordination, and facilitates the exchange of expertise among jurisdictions.

Japan

Q 17 - N/A

Q 18 - N/A

Q 19 - Based on UNAFEI's experience, enhancing opportunities for case-based peer-to-peer learning in multilateral trainings is the key for improving effectiveness of capacity building. Such approach will provide interactive learning environments where participants can present cases, share lessons learned, and exchange practical strategies. This not only builds technical knowledge but also strengthens trust and professional networks, which are crucial for cooperation in cross-border cases.

Q 20 - No answer

Q 21 - We believe that informal multilateral networks, such as the ARINs, can support the member countries' asset recovery processes by offering opportunities of knowledge sharing and network building.

Netherlands

No response to **Q 17** and **Q 18**

For questions **Q 19**, **Q 20** and **21** It is important that as many countries as possible are members of a regional ARIN.

Nigeria

Q 17

Crypto and Virtual Assets Challenges

Q 18

1. Pre Seizure Planning
2. Use and Effective Management of Recovered Assets

Q 19 and **Q 20**

- a. General barriers and institutional issues: promoting political will to identify asset recovery as a priority and strengthening anti-money laundering measures to prevent asset flight.
- b. Legal barriers and requirements that delay assistance: removing onerous requirements for mutual legal assistance, banking secrecy, facilitation of non-conviction-based recovery procedures and easing evidentiary and procedural legislation.
- c. Operational barriers and communication issues: removing the difficulty in identifying contact

points in other countries and delays in processing mutual legal assistance requests and training on properly drafted requests.

Q 21

Relevant Assistance and Cooperation in Repatriating Assets Located in Foreign Jurisdictions

Norway

No response provided for Q 17 and Q 18, Q 20, Q 21

Q 19

Increased transparency in what different donors/countries are supporting at both global, regional and national (country) level, meeting points between actors (improved and transparent UNCAC and FATF review mechanism, improved response time on MLA.

Portugal

Q 17

The ARO stresses the importance of improving capacities in the tracing and seizing of crypto currencies. The AMO cross-references the measures highlighted in the answer to Q19.

Q 18

The ARO stresses the importance of improving capacities in the tracing and seizing of crypto currencies. Crypto currencies are also an area pointed out by the AMO.

The ARO refers also to knowledge on IA.

And the AMO refers also to luxury assets and works of art.

Q 19

While the AMO identifies the connection between this answer to the legislation in preparation for the transposition of the EU Directive in this area, the ARO stresses the importance of increasing the possibilities of using as evidence the information shared among asset recovery offices.

Q 20

Establishing a clearer and more effective environment in international cooperation on asset recovery, in special on the recognition of national decisions. Putting pressure on non-cooperating states. Sharing experiences, solutions and information.

Q 21

Share experiences, solutions, information, and help practitioners to increase knowledge and create effective ARO's.

Russia

No response provided

Q 17

To strengthen asset recovery in Saudi Arabia, efforts should focus on enhancing institutional frameworks, fostering international collaboration, and leveraging technology. Specialized training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judicial officials is essential to improve financial investigation skills and cross-border legal expertise. Coordination among key national entities like the Saudi FIU, Central Bank, Nazaha, and Ministry of Interior is vital for a unified approach.

Partnerships with global organizations such as FATF, the UN, Carin, and regional ARINs should be prioritized to adopt best practices. Secure platforms for real-time international information exchange would accelerate asset identification and seizure. Investment in technologies like blockchain analysis and AI can improve asset tracking in complex cases. Public-private collaboration with financial institutions is also key to identifying suspicious transactions. Embedding these initiatives within a transparent and accountable policy framework will help Saudi Arabia advance asset recovery and deter future financial crimes.

Q 18

In the context of Saudi Arabia's asset recovery efforts, there are niche areas where capacity-building needs may not be fully addressed by existing assistance programs. One critical gap is the development of expertise in recovering assets hidden in emerging financial technologies, such as cryptocurrencies and decentralized finance (DeFi) platforms, which are increasingly used to obscure illicit funds. Current programs often focus on traditional financial systems, leaving a shortfall in specialized training for block-chain forensics and real-time tracking of digital assets across jurisdictions.

Q 19

To improve cooperation and the delivery and effectiveness of capacity-building and knowledge-sharing in cross-border asset recovery, a multifaceted approach is essential to address both practical and systemic challenges. Strengthening international partnerships through formalized agreements with key jurisdictions and multilateral organizations, such as Interpol, the Egmont Group, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, would facilitate smoother information exchange and mutual legal assistance. These agreements should prioritize standardized protocols for rapid response to asset tracing requests, reducing delays in time-sensitive cases. Tailored capacity-building programs should be developed in collaboration with global experts to focus on specific needs, such as navigating cultural and legal nuances in cross-border investigations. These programs should incorporate practical, case-based simulations to bridge the gap between theory and application, ensuring investigators, prosecutors, and judges can effectively handle real-world scenarios. Furthermore, a multifaceted approach that leverages the newly established Regional Asset Recovery Network in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA-ARIN) is essential. MENA-ARIN, would enable Nazaha to exchange best practices and lessons learned with neighbouring countries facing similar challenges, fostering a collective approach to combating illicit financial flows. To enhance delivery, capacity-building initiatives should leverage hybrid formats combining in- person workshops with secure online platforms to ensure accessibility and continuity, especially for remote or resource constrained agencies.

Encouraging public-private collaboration with financial institutions and technology firms would provide access to cutting-edge intelligence and tools, enhancing the ability to detect and

freeze illicit assets. Additionally, creating a centralized national coordination mechanism, such as a dedicated asset recovery task force or committee, would streamline domestic efforts and serve as a single point of contact for international partners, improving efficiency and accountability.

Q 20

G20 countries, with their advanced financial and legal systems, can significantly enhance global asset recovery efforts by promoting international coordination, capacity-building, and knowledge-sharing. They can lead through platforms like the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, advocating standardized frameworks and secure, real-time information-sharing via networks such as MENA-ARIN and the GlobE Network.

Targeted training programs in blockchain forensics, AI-driven financial analysis, and legal cooperation should be tailored to developing countries and delivered in accessible formats. G20 nations can also strengthen trust by enacting transparent laws to prevent misuse of their financial systems and by encouraging public-private partnerships to share intelligence and tools.

Moreover, they can push for stricter enforcement of international conventions like UNCAC and promote accountability in non-cooperative jurisdictions. To measure impact, G20 initiatives should track outcomes like assets recovered and personnel trained. Collectively, these actions would empower countries to combat illicit financial flows and advance asset recovery cases.

Q 21

Multilateral organizations, networks, and providers such as the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Networks (ARINs), the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), and the African Union Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum can significantly enhance the efficiency of asset recovery by offering specialized resources, fostering collaboration, and addressing regional challenges.

These entities can provide tailored capacity-building programs, focusing on advanced techniques like blockchain analysis and AI-driven financial tracking, customized to each country's legal and economic context.

For instance, StAR, a joint initiative of the World Bank and UNODC, can offer technical assistance in drafting robust legal frameworks and training prosecutors and investigators to navigate complex cross-border cases, drawing on its global expertise in high-profile recoveries. ARINs, including the Regional Asset Recovery Network in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA-ARIN), can facilitate rapid, informal information exchange among jurisdictions, enabling Saudi Arabia to trace and freeze assets more quickly through secure channels and trusted regional contacts.

These networks can also host scenario-based workshops, leveraging real-world case studies to build practical skills in areas like mutual legal assistance and asset confiscation.

Additionally, they can advocate for stronger enforcement of international frameworks like the UNCAC, pressuring jurisdictions to cooperate on asset recovery requests. To maximize impact, these entities should establish clear performance metrics, such as the number of assets recovered or cases resolved, and conduct regular evaluations to refine their programs.

South Africa

No response provided

Spain

Q 17

Awareness raising and specific capacity building for judges and prosecutors, as well as regular training to stay up to date on the latest international legislation regarding asset recovery.

Q 18

Crypto assets.

Q 19

The proposed measures aim to strengthen asset recovery and mutual legal assistance through a variety of practical and strategic actions. These include standardizing training materials and creating multilingual guidance tools to streamline legal cooperation. There's a push for interoperable asset management systems and better access to beneficial ownership information to improve transparency. Legal reforms are encouraged, especially around Non-Conviction Based Forfeiture, to address cross-border inconsistencies and allow confiscated assets to be repurposed for social good.

Efforts also focus on fostering collaboration—supporting permanent judicial cooperation platforms, promoting joint investigation teams for transnational money laundering, and enhancing intelligence sharing among asset recovery units. Capacity building is emphasized through hands-on training in digital asset tracking and forensic accounting, along with joint international exercises. The exchange of liaison officers and use of standardized templates for asset recovery requests are suggested to streamline processes.

Finally, organizing international events and expanding specialized working groups at global forums are seen as key to developing comprehensive policies, securing commitments, and achieving measurable results in the recovery and redistribution of illicit assets.

Q 20

- a. Share expertise and lessons from their own asset recovery cases.
- b. Facilitate access to financial and beneficial ownership data.
- c. Offer targeted assistance to bridge legislative and institutional gaps.
- d. Contribute to regional networks and global knowledge hubs.
- e. Advocate for prioritising asset recovery at the diplomatic level.

The G20 plays a critical role in boosting our global effectiveness, setting global norms and high-level principles for asset recovery, and pushing countries to adopt robust legal frameworks like non-conviction-based forfeiture. Crucially, they facilitate streamlined international cooperation by advocating for faster Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) and direct intelligence-sharing channels, which is vital for our cross-border investigations. The G20 also drives capacity-building and technical assistance, enabling members like Spain to share expertise, provide training in areas such as digital asset tracing, and promote the exchange of liaison officers. Furthermore, its focus on beneficial ownership transparency and adherence to AML/CFT standards directly helps locate and seize illicit assets hidden in complex structures. Essentially, the G20 provides the essential political will and practical framework for us to operate more effectively on an international stage, ensuring criminal proceeds are denied safe haven and returned.

Sponsorship and active support for specialized working groups are essential mechanisms for developing and strengthening clear, effective policies on asset recovery. These policies must focus particularly on ensuring tangible benefits from effective asset recovery for the involved countries, including the direct reintegration of recovered assets back into the affected states. It is crucial that these policies clearly outline processes and expected outcomes, fostering efficient, transparent, and result-oriented implementation. This reinforces international cooperation and maximizes the positive impact on security, social justice, and economic stability in the participating countries.

Q 21

- a. Promote alignment between donor strategies and recipient needs.
- b. Facilitate matchmaking between cases and expertise.
- c. Support institutional twinning or embedded mentorship schemes.
- d. Develop practical toolkits and cross-border case studies.
- e. Provide platforms for early dialogue and resolution of legal and procedural obstacles.
- f. Encourage the exchange of experiences, establish repositories of successful cases, and assist in creating standardized templates.

Informal networks like ARINs are vital for operational efficiency and should remain informal to avoid bureaucratic delays. While multilateral organizations such as StAR and the African Union Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum play a crucial role, their overlapping functions can cause confusion. A unified national point of contact is proposed to streamline access and improve coordination.

The use of secure platforms like SIENA is recommended to enhance cooperation among financial intelligence units and law enforcement. Lastly, mechanisms for full traceability of confiscated assets (from identification to disposal) are essential for accountability and maximizing societal benefit.

Turkey

No response provided

5.5. Additional Comments

22. Please share any additional comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding capacity-building and knowledge-sharing efforts in asset recovery:

No responses were provided under question 22 by the African Union and the following countries: Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey. Portugal noted that crime does not pay, while Indonesia and Spain provided more detailed responses.

Indonesia

Q 22

Integrate Strategic Competencies into Training

Training programs should go beyond technical skills and include strategic aspects, such as strengthening cross-jurisdictional coordination, understanding international legal frameworks, and developing negotiation skills within the framework of international legal cooperation. These competencies are essential for handling complex, multi-country asset recovery cases.

Incorporate Best Practices and Case Studies

Training content can be enriched by integrating best practices from previous cases or other countries. These case studies can serve as practical and inspiring references for handling future cases.

Develop sustainable, leveled training programs. Training should be designed to accommodate varying levels of expertise, ensuring that content is relevant and impactful for both new and experienced participants. A tiered approach will support continuous learning and professional growth.

Leverage Scalable Online Platforms and Peer Learning

Utilizing online platforms allows training programs to reach a wider audience efficiently and cost-effectively. Other than that, peers sharing session/communities of practices can be an effective way to gain more knowledge and experience

Spain

Q 22

FIAP underscores the value of pairing technical cooperation with political dialogue to foster sustained progress in asset recovery. Multidimensional programmes—like SECFIN or EU-ACT—that include legal, institutional, and operational capacity-building show greater potential when coupled with regional coordination and embedded technical assistance.

The National Police emphasize the need to establish a common definition of informal/direct international cooperation to enhance efficiency in asset recovery. They also highlight the importance of raising awareness about the benefits and added value of informal/direct cooperation as a key facilitator for formal international collaboration.

CITCO underlines the importance of obtaining a comprehensive and transparent overview of the final destination of identified or confiscated assets. This not only ensures operational efficiency throughout the asset recovery process but also actively engages all relevant state actors. The outcomes positively influence numerous areas: from budgetary enhancements for law enforcement agencies to fair and effective victim restitution. Furthermore, it mitigates the negative impacts of organized crime, such as social inequality and the corruption of financial systems, by enabling reinvestment in social programs aimed at reconstructing and strengthening affected communities.