



Global Law Enforcement Response to Corruption during COVID-19

Agenda

June 4, 2021

UNGASS SIDE EVENT

Co-Sponsors: OECD/ACD and U.S. INL



■ Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the lives of many people worldwide and required governments to introduce sweeping public procurement and economic support packages to address the health and economic crisis faced by their citizens. Governments also exercised exceptional powers including simplified procedures, rapid disbursement of funds and the waiver of traditional procurement safeguards to respond to the immediate needs of the health crisis; however, such actions also increased the opportunities for corruption and other misconduct, seriously weakening the effectiveness of government action and generating mistrust among the public. Simultaneously, governments introduced extensive lockdown measures, limited the delivery of in-person government and judiciary functions, and restricted movement across national borders in response to the spread of COVID-19 which posed unique challenges to law enforcement practitioners in their ability to detect, investigate and prosecute corruption.

In September 2020, the OECD Anti-Corruption Division (ACD) launched the “Global Law Enforcement Response to Corruption in Crisis Situations” Project to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement practitioners to combat corruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crisis situations. The OECD/ACD Project is supported by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and will last until July 2022.

As part of the Project, the ACD has organized a peer learning framework comprised of webinars strictly for law enforcement practitioners under the umbrella of the OECD’s Law Enforcement Networks (LENs). In these thematic webinars, officials exchange experiences on issues related to emergency public procurement and economic stimulus packages, whistleblower reporting and protection, interagency cooperation and the use of new technologies for the purposes of detection and investigation of corruption during crisis situations. To reach a sustainable impact over the long term and respond to future crises, the Project will develop learning materials and practical guidelines that will facilitate broad-based application of best practices taking into account lessons learned as well as challenges identified by law enforcement practitioners in the pandemic context.

While the Project is a global initiative, it focuses on individual regions to reflect the unique regional challenges related to the institutional capacities of law enforcement bodies, access to technologies, and the different response measures instituted with respect to the local public health conditions. The specific regions of focus for the Project are Africa (AFR), Asia Pacific (AP), Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

Moreover, the Project’s peer learning framework builds on the work of the OECD’s Global Law Enforcement Network (GLEN) meeting and regional Law Enforcement Networks. Through meetings of the Law Enforcement Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN LEN), Law Enforcement Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC LEN), Law Enforcement Network for Asia Pacific (AP LEN), and African Law Enforcement Officials, the Project will provide a forum for law

OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, Anti-Corruption Division (DAF/ACD)

The Anti-Corruption Division (ACD) within the Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF) of the OECD supports the global fight against corruption and particularly against the bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions. The ACD is the Secretariat of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions (WGB), which is the conference of the 44 Parties to the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and related legal instruments. The ACD supports the WGB to ensure that these instruments are fully implemented and remain at the forefront of the global fight against foreign bribery.

U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) works to keep Americans safe by countering international crime, illegal drugs, and instability abroad. INL helps countries deliver justice and fairness by strengthening their police, courts, and corrections systems. These efforts reduce the amount of crime and illegal drugs reaching U.S. shores.



enforcement practitioners to identify themes of interest and promote collaboration. Regional LENS will reflect on case typologies, solutions and investigatory tools identified in different countries, as well as discuss the learning materials and practical guidelines for the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption in crisis situations. The GLEN meeting will finalize this discussion at the global level.

As such, this session brings together the chairs of the OECD's regional Law Enforcement Networks and past speakers from the peer learning framework of webinars delivered in the ACN, AFR, AP, and LAC regions. The panelists will take stock of law enforcement efforts to-date and identify solutions to challenges in preventing and combatting corruption in the pandemic context. Participants will reflect on approaches used by law enforcement practitioners, operational practices and emerging case typologies identified in addressing corruption during COVID-19.

This session is co-sponsored by the OECD/ACD and the US/INL.

■ Date, time and venue

4 June 2021, 09:00 -10:00 AM EST

UNGASS side event via Zoom

■ Participants and Practical Information

Participant registration link: <https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtdO-uqD0vH9zAIlmUwz5KioFIZp9VxRd>

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■ Agenda

09:00 – 09:15 Welcoming Address and Opening Remarks

Moderator: Mr. Patrick Moulette, Head of the Anti-Corruption Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

Mr. James Walsh, Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Mr. Jeffrey Schlagenhauf, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD

09:15 – 09:55 Panel Discussion: Global Law Enforcement Response to Corruption during COVID-19

Speakers will take stock of the approaches used by law enforcement practitioners to detect, investigate and prosecute corruption during the COVID-19 crisis. Participants will reflect on enforcement efforts and emerging case typologies that have been outlined during webinars organized in the context of the OECD/ACD Project "Global Law Enforcement Response to Corruption in Crisis Situations". The panelists will also reflect on importance of inter-agency cooperation and international cooperation, and describe activities of the regional Law Enforcement Networks (LENs).

Speakers

- **Ms. Anca Jurma**, Advisor to the Chief Prosecutor of the National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA), Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, Romania & Chair of the ACN LEN
- **Ms. Laura Roteta**, Head, Office of the Prosecutor against Economic Crime and Money Laundering (PROCELAC), Argentina & Co-Chair of LAC LEN
- **Ms. Alisa Rukbankerd**, International Affairs Officer, National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC), Thailand
- **Mr. Pieter Alberts**, Manager, Monitoring and Analysis Division of the Financial Intelligence Centre, South Africa

09:55 – 10:00 Closing Remarks and the way forward