



17th St. & Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
United States of America

Organization of American States

P. 202.458.3000  
[www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**XLIV MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS  
FOR THE CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING  
September 25 – 26, 2017  
Asunción, Paraguay**

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**ACTIVITIES REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT (TS/DTC)  
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING 2016-2017**

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ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING 2016-2017

The activities developed by the Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTOC/OAS) in terms of anti-money laundering during the period of 2016-2017 were determined by the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX) in the XLIII Plenary Meeting in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, in September 2016; as well as by the mandates of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) in their Sixtieth Regular Session, celebrated in Nassau, the Bahamas, in November of 2016.

The following is a description of the activities of technical assistance and training accomplished during the period in question.

**A. As part of the Asset Forfeiture and Recovery Program**, the following activities have been carried out:

a) Regional Meeting of Professionals in Asset Recovery of the Caribbean (ARIN-Carib): The first phase of this initiative was initiated with the objective of establishing an Asset Recovery Network in the Caribbean Region based on the experience of the six other networks around the world<sup>1</sup>, through this expert meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 in **Bridgetown, Barbados**. This meeting was attended by experts in Asset Recovery (judicial and law enforcement authorities) from 32 jurisdictions in the Caribbean along with experts from different ARINs around the world. The meeting was co-organized by the Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTOC/OAS) and the Regional Security System of the Caribbean (RSS), and had the participation of several International Organizations such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Financial Action Task Force of the Caribbean (CFATF), the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In the end, participants agreed to create an Asset Recovery Interagency Network for the Caribbean (ARIN-CARIB) and the discussions generated suggestions concerning membership, structure, and function that would later be included in a “Statement of Intent.”

b) Steering Group Meeting for the establishment of an Asset Recovery Interagency Network in the Caribbean: Continuing with the process of establishing the ARIN-Carib, on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in **Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**, the Steering Group, created in the experts meeting held in Bridgetown, Barbados, met with the purpose of writing a document that presents the conditions of membership and functioning of the network: this document would constitute the draft Statement of Intent.

c) First Meeting of National Points of Contact of ARIN-Carib: From June 28 to 29, 2017, the inaugural ceremony of ARIN-CARIB was celebrated in **Miami, United States of America**, co-organized by the DTOC/OAS and the Regional Security System of the Caribbean (RSS). With the adoption of the Statement

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<sup>1</sup> CARIN (Mainly European), ARIN-AP (Asia Pacific), ARIN-EA (Eastern Africa), ARIN-SA (Southern Africa), ARIN-WA (West Africa), and RRAG (Latin America).

of Intent, ARIN-Carib was created, composed of 32 jurisdictions of the Caribbean region, and open so that any country or intergovernmental body with similar functions or objectives can be elected to be a part of the Membership.

**B. As part of the Money Laundering Control Program**, the following activities have been accomplished:

a) Regional Workshop on Special Investigative Techniques applied in money laundering cases: From May 16 to 18, 2017, in **Kingston, Jamaica**, this workshop, co-organized by the DTOC/OAS and the Regional Security System of the Caribbean (RSS), and with the financial support of Canada was carried out; 32 prosecutors and investigators from Belize, Dominica, Granada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago participated with the objective of being trained in the use of special investigative techniques.

b) Regional Anti-Money Laundering Workshop for Judges and Prosecutors: From the May 22 to 24, 2017, in **Bridgetown, Barbados**, this regional workshop was carried out, co-organized by the DTOC/OAS and the Regional Security System of the Caribbean (RSS) and with the financial support of Canada; 28 prosecutors and judges from Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago participated with the purpose of receiving training in prosecution and trialing of money laundering offences.

c) National Workshop on Forensic Auditing and Creative Accounting Applied to the Investigation of Money Laundering Cases: From June 19 to 21, 2017, in **Lima, Peru**, this national workshop was implemented, co-organized by the DTOC/OAS and the “*Superintendencia de Banca, Seguros y AFP*” of Peru (Superintendence of Banking, Insurances and AFP), with the financial support of the United States; 32 employees of the Office of Public Prosecutors, “*Dirección de Investigación de Lavado de Activos de la Policía Nacional*” of Peru (Directorate of Investigation of Money Laundering of the National Police of Peru) and Analysts of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) participated with the objective of strengthening their abilities in the development of financial investigations through theoretical and practical training in forensic auditing and other techniques of accounting investigations.

d) Technical Assistance Project to Peru: meeting of the Multisectoral Executive Committee against Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (*Comisión Ejecutiva Multisectorial contra el Lavado de Activos y el Financiamiento del Terrorismo - CONTRALAFT*). From August 21 to 24, 2017, in **Lima, Peru**, DTOC specialists met with members of CONTRALAFT to assist Peru's relevant authorities in preparing for the GAFILAT ML/FT Mutual Evaluation.

**C. As part of the Program for the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime**, the following activities have been accomplished:

a) Meeting of the National Points of Contact in matters of Transnational Organized Crime: From April 3 to 4, 2017, the national points of contact in matters of TOC met in Washington, D.C., with the objective of discussing the results of the responses to the questionnaire circulated to analyze the level of implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against TOC. During the meeting, the DTOC presented

the Preliminary Report on the results of the questionnaire for the evaluation of the PoA, which was answered by OAS 20 member states ([http://scm.oas.org/doc\\_public/spanish/hist\\_17/cp37433s03.doc](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/spanish/hist_17/cp37433s03.doc)).

b) High level meeting and exchange of notes with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution of El Salvador to provide technical assistance in matters of TOC: From August 15 to 16, 2017, in **San Salvador, El Salvador**, a high level meeting with the DPP was held with the goal of establishing a framework for technical cooperation between the GS/OAS, through the DTOC, and the DPP to seek institutional strengthening through technical assistance and training to combat transnational organized crime and high profile cases. The Technical Assistant will consider, through an assessment, the specific needs of the distinct Units of the DPP, suggesting the implementation of tutorship models or accompaniment and special training, with the end of guaranteeing policies of criminal prosecution based on the highest international standards for investigation and criminal procedures.

**D. Participation of the DTOC in multiple activities of international cooperation in the 2016-2017 period, namely:**

a) From November 7 to 10, 2016, in **Providenciales, Turks and Caicos**, the XLIV Plenary Session of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) took place, in which the DTOC presented to the Plenary their advances on the mandates received from GELAVEX to support the creation of an asset recovery interagency network for the Caribbean.

b) From February 14 to 16, 2017, in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**, the DTOC participated in the “International Expert Meeting on the management and disposal of recovered and returned stolen assets, in support of sustainable development,” organized by the UNODC. In this meeting, DTOC shared, in a global sphere, the work of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX) and that of the DTOC on the subject, and generated synergies with the UNODC, Member States, and Observers.

c) From April 17 to 21, 2017, in **Montevideo, Uruguay**, the DTOC continued supporting the Technical Assistance Mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to improve the capacities of the Financial Intelligence Unit of Uruguay in the areas of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.

d) From May 10 to 11, 2017, in **Panama City, Panama**, the DTOC participated in the XIV General Meeting of the Points of Contact for the Asset Recovery Interagency Network of GAFILAT (RRAG). DTOC participated as a speaker and observer, exchanging experiences in matters of recovery of assets of criminal origin.

e) From May 28 to June 1<sup>st</sup>, the DTOC also actively participated in the XLV Plenary Session of CFATF, which took **Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**. DTOC presented the activities carried out since the last plenary session regarding the project of creating an asset recovery interagency network for the Caribbean, such as the meetings in November 2016 in Barbados, the Steering Group meeting in February 2017 in Trinidad

and Tobago, and the First Meeting of the Points of Contact of ARIN-CARIB, to be celebrated on June 2017 in Miami.

f) From July 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2017, in **Turks and Caicos**, the DTOC participated in the Course for Evaluators on the Methodology of Mutual Evaluations of FATF, coordinated by CFATF, with the objective of updating knowledge and technically advising Member States in their respective Mutual Evaluations.

g) From July 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2017 in **Buenos Aires, Argentina** the DTOC had and active participation at the XXXV GAFILAT Plenary Meeting as well in the meetings of the Working Groups on Training and Development, Mutual Evaluation, Operational Support and Financing Terrorism. The DTOC verbally exposed to the Plenary the activities performed during 2017 and announced the activities to be carried out in the framework of the different programs and projects that it is implementing in the field of money laundering linked to transnational organized crime.

h) From August 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the DTOC participated as a speaker and beneficiary in the “Orientation Asset Forfeiture-Webinar Series”, offered by the Department of Justices of the United States of America, held in **Houston, Texas**.