



**Arab Forum Special Session Three:  
The Role of Civil Society in Asset Recovery  
Lancaster House, London, UK  
Sept. 3-4, 2013**

Special Session III will provide civil society organizations (CSOs) from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region with a comprehensive picture of the status, results as well as challenges encountered by the Arab countries in transition in tracing and recovering assets stolen by members of past regimes. It will also equip participants with the tools to analyze present efforts against the internationally available experiences and good practices in asset recovery, and highlight the role that civil society has and can play in this context. Moreover, Special Session III will provide participants with a range of tools for action to effectively engage and support the recovery of assets within and beyond their respective countries, including through the development of a practical asset recovery handbook for CSOs in the MENA region.

Ambassador Muhyieddeen Touq, Jordan, will act as the overall rapporteur for Special Session III. He will prepare the report of the meeting with the support of the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative. The report will be made available through the Arab Forum on Asset Recovery website.

**Day 1: September 03, 2013 (Tuesday)**

Time	Moderator/Speakers	
09:00-9:30	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming remarks by the host</li> <li>• Keynote address by Ms. Charmian Gooch, Co-founder of Global Witness</li> </ul>	
09:30-11:00	<p><b>Panel 1: State of play of asset recovery efforts by Arab countries in transition.</b> The objective of the panel is to provide civil society from the MENA region with a <u>comprehensive picture of the status, results, and challenges encountered by the Arab countries in transition in tracing and recovering assets</u> stolen by members of past regimes.</p> <p>Following a presentation by StAR outlining the fundamentals of asset recovery (e.g. detection, investigation, prosecution/adjudication, international cooperation, and the management of returned assets), the panelists will present the progress made in tracing, freezing, recovering and returning assets to the Arab countries in transition. In their respective presentations, panelists will focus on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What we can learn from the efforts to recover and return stolen assets to the Arab countries in transition;</li> <li>• Legal, operational, policy and institutional barriers to asset recovery, timeframes required, and related lessons emerging;</li> <li>• Strategy and domestic coordination of asset recovery efforts;</li> <li>• Tracing of assets and pre-mutual legal assistance (MLA) cooperation, including the use of FIU to FIU and police to police channels, as well as other practitioner networks;</li> <li>• Financial investigations and linking the assets to specific crimes - establishing probable cause as the condition for successful freezing orders;</li> <li>• Mutual legal assistance – understanding and meeting legal requirements, including the use of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) as a basis for MLA requests;</li> <li>• State of play in responding to MLA requests in financial centers;</li> <li>• Alternative channels for asset recovery, in particular civil litigation and the use of private law firms and asset tracing services;</li> <li>• Public outreach and cooperation with CSOs on issues relating to the ongoing efforts to recover and return the proceeds of corruption to the Arab countries in transition.</li> </ul>	
11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	

11:30-13:00	<p><b>Panel 1: State of play of asset recovery efforts by Arab countries in transition.</b> (continued)</p>	<p>M: Mr. Saad Felali Meknassi, UNCAC Civil Society Coalition, Morocco</p> <p>P: Judge Bashir Al-Akkare, Stolen Asset Recovery Committee, Libya</p> <p>P: Judge Alaa Morsi, National Asset Recovery Task Force, Egypt</p> <p>P: Mr. Jonathan Benton, Metropolitan Police, UK</p>
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
14:00-15:30	<p><b>Panel 2: The role of CSOs in asset recovery in the MENA region – Advocacy, research &amp; awareness raising.</b> The objective of this panel is to present what has been the role thus far of CSOs in the Arab countries and what it can become, including by drawing from the experiences of CSOs outside the region. The panel will provide participants with a range of <u>tools for action to effectively engage and support the recovery of assets</u> within and beyond their respective countries.</p> <p>Following a presentation by ICAR outlining the different roles that CSOs can and have played in asset recovery, the panelists will present their respective experiences as members of civil society in getting involved on the issue of asset recovery in their countries. In their respective presentations, they will focus on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How asset recovery ranks in the public discourse in their countries;</li> <li>• The role of civil society as relates to asset recovery efforts - their expectations and concerns;</li> <li>• The specific techniques and approaches applied by CSOs to create political momentum and public support to asset recovery, including through research and public education, awareness raising, legal and policy advocacy, and the use of modern technology and communication channels.</li> </ul>	<p>M: Ms. Brigitte Strobel-Shaw, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC</p> <p>P: Ms. Gretta Fenner, ICAR</p> <p>P: Mr. Mogib Hassan, AWAM, Yemen</p> <p>P: Mr. Osama Diab, Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), Egypt</p> <p>P: Mr. Sami Remadi, Association Tunisienne pour la Transparence Financière (ATTF), Tunisia</p>
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	

16:00-17:30	<p><b>Panel 3: The role of CSOs in asset recovery – Information gathering, whistleblower protection and litigation.</b> This panel will provide insight into the experiences of CSOs in litigating asset recovery cases, gathering information and cooperating with law enforcement agencies to trigger investigations and/or prosecutorial action, as well as the specific role CSOs can play in soliciting and protecting whistleblowers. The panel will provide participants with a range of <u>tools for action to effectively engage and support the recovery of assets</u> within and beyond their respective countries.</p> <p>The panelists will present their respective experiences in pursuing direct legal action or soliciting Government legal action for the purpose of asset recovery, including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private civil litigation;</li> <li>• Initiating or joining Government legal action as <i>partie civile</i>;</li> <li>• Private prosecution;</li> <li>• Providing law enforcement agencies, directly or indirectly, with information relevant to asset recovery related cases;</li> <li>• Soliciting, supporting and protecting whistleblowers – what role CSOs can play and what risks may exist.</li> </ul>	<p>M: Prof. M. Cherif Bassiouni, International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (ISIS), USA/Egypt</p> <p>P: Mr. William Bourdon, SHERPA, France</p> <p>P: Ms. Nuria García Sanz, APDHE, Spain</p> <p>P: Mr. James Maton, Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP, UK</p> <p>P: Mr. John Devitt, TI-Ireland</p>
17:30-17:40	<b>Wrap up of day one</b> by Prof. M. Cherif Bassiouni	
19:00-21:00	<i>Reception hosted by the government of the UK</i>	

**Day Two: September 04, 2013 (Wednesday)**

During the workshops, participants will be split into small groups of around 30 persons each and will have the opportunity to engage in more detailed and interactive discussions on the topics covered during the first day. Moreover, the workshops will provide an opportunity for CSOs to shape and provide input to the practical asset recovery handbook.

**Workshops will run twice** to accommodate participants wishing to attend multiple workshops. Participants will need to sign up for workshops on a first-come, first-served basis.

09:00-10:45	<b>Workshop 1: Advocacy, research and awareness raising</b>  F: Robert Palmer and Juman Kubba, Global Witness	<b>Workshop 2: Information gathering, whistleblower protection and litigation</b>  F: William Bourdon, SHERPA, and Jacques Terray, TI-France	<b>Workshop 3: Management of Recovered Assets</b>  F: Hans Juergen Gruss, Former Deputy General Counsel, World Bank
10:45-11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:15-13:00	<b>Workshop 1: Advocacy, research and awareness raising</b>  F: Robert Palmer and Juman Kubba, Global Witness	<b>Workshop 2: Information gathering, whistleblower protection and litigation</b>  F: William Bourdon, SHERPA, and Jacques Terray, TI-France	<b>Workshop 3: Management of Recovered Assets</b>  F: Hans Juergen Gruss, Former Deputy General Counsel, World Bank
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00-16:00	<b>Panel 4: Reports of the Working Groups.</b>  This panel will provide an overview of the topics, issues, and conclusions emerging from the working group sessions, and will report on the specific inputs and recommendations made for the production of the practical asset recovery handbook.  Moreover, the panel will feature a presentation by ICAR on the way forward in the developments on the practical asset recovery handbook and a presentation of asset recovery relevant parts of the UNCAC Coalition statement to the 5 <sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.		M: Mr. Arkan El-Seblani, UNDP  P: Mr. Robert Palmer, Global Witness  P: Mr. Jacques Terray, TI-France  P: Mr. Hans Juergen Gruss, Former Deputy General Counsel, World Bank  P: Pedro Gomes Pereira, ICAR  P: Gillian Dell, TI and UNCAC Civil Society Coalition
16:00-16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>		

16:30-17:00	<b>Concluding Summary by the Rapporteur, Ambassador Muhyieddeen Touq</b>
17:00-17:15	<b>Closing Remarks by the Host</b>