



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

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

XLII MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS FOR THE CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING
May 26-27, 2016
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.LJ/XIV.4.42
DDOT/LAVEX/doc.9/16
25 May 2016
Original: Español

PROGRESS REPORT:
STUDY ON THE USE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

Progress report:
Study on the use of special investigative techniques

**Sub-Working Group on Financial Intelligence Units
and Criminal Investigation Agencies**

**XLII Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering
(GELAVEX)**



**Organización de los
Estados Americanos**

Background



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- XXXIX GELAVEX: Montevideo, 2014
 - Approval of the Strategic Plan 2015-2017
 - SITs as one of its line of actions

- XLI GELAVEX: Lima, 2015
 - Working Plan 2015-2016:
 - To develop a study on SITs
 - Delegations that expressed their interest in supporting the initiative: Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador and Dominican Republic.

Methodology proposed



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

The coordinator of the Sub-Working Group proposed to prepare of a questionnaire, to gather information on the use of SITs in OAS Member States

– Questionnaire's design

Progress



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- The Sub-Working group elaborated a questionnaire that was sent to SMS/OAS
- The SMS distributed the questionnaire to all delegations on December 4, 2015
- The deadline to send it back was set for March 15, 2016
- Answers received up to date: 13

First impressions



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- The questionnaires received allow us to state that:
 - Legislation authorizes the use of techniques for wiretappings, but countries lack of the required equipment;
 - There is a lack of experience in using techniques such as undercover agents and controlled deliveries in money laundering cases, even when countries reported the use those techniques for investigating other crimes;
 - There are legal limitations to investigations regarding the creation of fictitious legal entities, opening fictitious bank accounts, and putting illegal money into the economy;
 - There is limited time to use these tools in investigations where judicial authorization must be obtained; and
 - Lack of training to implement these techniques.



- Therefore, the following needs were identified:
 - To update legal frame works including new forms of communication;
 - To establish the possibility of creating fictitious legal entities, opening banking accounts, and allowing fake business activities for the benefit of money laundering investigations;
 - To train police and criminal prosecution agencies to use of these techniques; and
 - To invest in technology that enables the interception of communications, and if it is not possible, to facilitate international cooperation.



Future steps





Organización de los
Estados Americanos

Thanks!!