



Initiative to Establish an Asset Recovery Inter -agency Network (ARIN) in the Caribbean Region

Caribbean Regional Meeting of Asset Recovery Practitioners

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The Department Against Transnational Organized Crime of the Organization of American States (DTCO /SMS/ OAS), The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions Barbados , and The Regional Security System (RSS)

Radisson Hotel, Barbados
15 – 16 November, 20 16

I. Background

Global recognition for the need to target criminally derived assets in order to disrupt crime and protect the legal economy has been gathering momentum throughout the last two decades. This has manifested itself in the adoption of new national, regional and international laws and standards providing for tracing, freezing, seizure and confiscation or forfeiture of criminal proceeds.

The Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX/OAS) was created in 1990 and it constitutes one of the advisory bodies of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) of the Organization of American States (OAS). At the XL GELAVEX meeting, experts asked the Technical Secretariat to explore the possibility of establishing an asset recovery network for the Caribbean, based on the existing asset recovery models which have been established around the world.

The first asset recovery network was created in 2002, in the framework of an asset recovery conference hosted by the Irish Criminal Asset Bureau at the Camden Court Hotel in Ireland. In that opportunity, a group of law enforcement and judicial asset recovery practitioners concluded that, although important, new legislation was not enough to increase international cooperation in this area. It was agreed by the practitioners that, in a technically complicated judicial field such as asset recovery, lacking in standard national approaches to legislation, policy and procedures, a network of law enforcement and prosecutorial specialists from relevant agencies was needed to apply existing laws and policy quickly, appropriately and therefore effectively. The resulting 'informal' practitioners network, CARIN, was the first asset recovery inter-agency network to be established. CARIN is now recognised globally as a leading law enforcement and judicial tool used in targeting organised crime gangs with particular reference to financial deprivation. Membership of CARIN has improved cross-border and inter-agency cooperation as well as asset recovery information exchange within and outside the European region.

Following on from the success of CARIN, which is mainly but not exclusively European in nature, five other regions have since established informal asset recovery inter-agency networks mirroring the CARIN model¹.

II. Objective of the Meeting

This Practitioner Meeting is the first phase in the process of establishing an asset recovery inter-agency network (ARIN) in the Caribbean, based on the existing six ARINs already operating across the world. Practitioners from law enforcement, prosecution authorities and Attorney General's Offices who, either are involved in asset recovery, or would be if the jurisdiction was already active in asset recovery, will discuss what kind of informal asset recovery network would best suit the Caribbean region. It is vitally important that the jurisdictions in the region decide what is best for their region in this regard, as the network will

¹ ARIN-AP (Asia Pacific), ARIN-EA (Eastern Africa), ARIN-SA (Southern Africa), ARIN-WA (West Africa), RRAG (Latin America)

primarily function to facilitate international co-operation in relation to asset tracing, seeking and enforcing freezing and seizure orders, managing assets and seeking and enforcing confiscation and forfeiture orders.

III. Methodology

In order to discuss the importance of an ARIN and the benefits that could be obtained through the creation of a network for the Caribbean, asset recovery practitioners from other ARINs will firstly share their experiences and perspectives on the creation of their own networks. In consideration of the ideal network for the region, these presentations will highlight the similarities and differences to their membership, structure and functioning, with a view to informing Caribbean practitioners regarding the benefits of informal asset recovery networks. Following this, participants will divide into working groups to discuss topics relating to forming an asset recovery network. Each working group will be facilitated by;

- < a representative from another ARIN
- < a representative from the region and
- < a representative from the ARIN Caribbean initiative organising team

The workshop outcomes will be presented in plenary on day two of the meeting. These outcomes will form the basis of a draft 'Terms of Reference' or 'Statement of Intent' for the network. This will subsequently be sent to all jurisdictions in the region as the basis for their own asset recovery network.

IV. Audience

Two to three asset recovery practitioners from each of 27 Caribbean jurisdictions² have been invited to the meeting. They consist of one law enforcement representative, one representative from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution and one representative from the Attorney General's Office. In addition, the meeting will be attended by a number of practitioners from outside the region who have previously been involved in establishing asset recovery networks, and in fact work operationally within the ARIN community on asset recovery cases.

² Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman islands, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands.

Day 1 – Tuesday 15 November

<p>08 00 – 09:00 Hotel Plenary Room (HPR)</p>	<p>Registration of participants</p>
<p>09:00</p>	<p>Opening of the Meeting – Call to Order</p> <p>☐</p>
<p>09:00 – 09:45 Radisson Hotel Plenary Room (HPR)</p>	<p>Opening Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < Director of Public Prosecutions Charles Leacock Q.C., Barbados < Ambassador Francis McBarnette Representative, Barbados < Honorable Adriel D. Braithwaite, Q.C., Attorney General, Barbados < Honorable Sir Marston C.D. Gibson K.A., Chief Justice, Barbados
<p>09:45 – 09:45</p>	<p>Recess</p>
<p>09:45 – 10:15 Radisson HPR</p>	<p>Keynote Address:</p> <p><i>The Honorable Fariq Al-Rawi, M.P. Attorney General, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p>
<p>10:15 – 11:00 Radisson HPR</p>	<p>The History, Development and Operation of Regional Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Networks.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Ms. Jill Thomas, OAS Asset Recovery Advisor</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < The Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN) <i>Mr. Dirk Ten Boer, CARIN Presidency 2016, Chief Public Prosecutor, Prosecution Service of The Netherlands</i> # 7 k and <i>Guernsey CARIN contact</i> < The Asset Recovery Inter -Agency Network Southern Africa (ARIN -SA) <i>Mr. FitzRoy Drayton, UNODC Field Officer and Advisor to the Secretariat</i> < The " Red de Recuperación de Activos de GAFILAT" (RRAG Latin America Asset Recovery Network)

	<i>Mr. Guillermo Hernandez RRAG Technical Specialist</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:15	The History, Development and Operation of Regional Asset Recovery Inter - Agency Networks continued...
12:15 – 12:45	Presentation of Asset Recovery Cases from the Region
12:45 – 13:00 Radisson HPR	Introduction to Workshop Facilitators and Methodology - <i>Ms. Jill Thomas, OAS Asset Recovery Advisor</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 16:30 Breakout Rooms 1-2	Delegates divide into working groups and discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure of the network • Operational and strategic functioning of the network • Need for a website facility • Future operational and strategic work of ARIN-Caribbean
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee Break
17:00 – 18:00	Working group discussions (Cont.)
Day 2 – Wednesday, 16 November	
09:00 – 10:00 Radisson HPR	<p>The Added Value of Asset Recovery Inter -Agency Networks .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < Presentation of a case requiring multi -jurisdictional international cooperation <i>Mr. Michael Burke, US Department of Justice and Ms. Maryelizabeth Valet, Dominican Republic Prosecutor</i> < Presentation of a CARIN case <i>Mr. Dirk ten Boer, Chief Public Prosecutor, Chief Public Prosecutor, Prosecution Service of The Netherlands</i> < Presentation of a RRAG case <i>Mr. Guillermo Hernandez RRAG Technical Specialist</i>

10:00 – 10:30	Question and answer session
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00 Radisson HPR	<p>Presentation of the Working Group Outcomes</p> <p>Panel members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < <i>Representative of working group A</i> < <i>Representative of working group B</i> < <i>Representative of working group C</i> < <i>Representative of working group D</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15:00	Question and answer session
15:00 – 15:30 Radisson HPR	ARIN-Caribbean – Wrap up of the meeting and decision on next steps
15:30 – 16:00 Radisson HPR	Official Closure