

**Concept for UNCAC ARWG Side Event:
Transparent and Accountable Return of Confiscated Assets**

Date: June 7, 2018

Time: 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Participation: Open to States Parties and invited representatives

Format: Panel, followed by Q&A

Description:

As more international asset recovery cases come to a successful conclusion, countries must increasingly cooperate on repatriating confiscated assets in line with their domestic laws and international obligations. Safeguarding these assets from being re-corrupted and ensuring they are returned for the benefit for the people harmed by the corruption is critical. Consequently, transferring and receiving countries, including governments and non-governmental actors, have shared interests in promoting transparency and accountability throughout the process. All States Parties to the UNCAC also agree that, in line with article 57 of UNCAC, priority consideration should be given to returning confiscated property to the requesting State Party, returning such property to its prior legitimate owners or compensating the victims of the crime. Moreover, where possible, States should also consider working together on identifying actions and programmes which could be supported through the returned assets to address the underlying weaknesses that were exploited by the corrupt officials.

This side event will build upon the discussions started in other fora - including the Lausanne Process Initiative, the Addis Agenda and the Addis Process, the Global Forum on Asset Recovery, and other development goals - on how to promote successful asset return by ensuring transparency and accountability in the processes involved. A panel of experts will focus on several of the GFAR Principles and share experiences and good practices on how their countries have put them into practice through concrete examples to ensure transparency and accountability in the repatriation of recovered assets.