



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

**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
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CICAD

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P. 202.458.3000
www.oas.org

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**XLI MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS FOR
THE CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING
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**COMMENT ON “OPEN SOURCES OF INFORMATION AS A TOOL OF DEVELOPMENT
FOR RESEARCH OF MONEY LAUNDERING AND THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM”
WORLD BANK OFFER TO PARTNER ON PROJECT**

COMMENT on “Open Sources of Information as a Tool of Development for Research of Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism”; World Bank offer to partner on project

As an observer to the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX), we were pleased to review the proposal on “Open Sources of Information as a Tool of Development for Research of Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (CICAD/LAVEX/doc.3/15). We believe the project proposes a valuable tool for the cross-border investigation of financial crimes and the identification of assets for possible recovery. Compilation of open sources as proposed by the project will not only be an important aid for the development of subject and financial profiles during investigation, but may help avoid unnecessary formal mutual legal assistance requests.

If GELAVEX decides to proceed with this proposal, the World Bank through the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative offers to partner with GELAVEX in this project by hosting and maintaining the tool on the World Bank StAR website (www.worldbank.org/star). StAR is a partnership between the World Bank and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) that supports developing countries and financial centers to prevent the laundering of the proceeds of corruption and to facilitate more systematic and timely return of stolen assets. In addition to the assistance of countries in their asset recovery efforts, StAR supports the building of networks among asset recovery practitioners, including law enforcement, prosecuting authorities and judicial officers. In addition to GELAVEX, StAR is actively engaged with other global and regional networks such as the StAR-INTERPOL Global Focal Points Network on Asset Recovery, the Camden Asset Recovery Inter Agency Network (CARIN), the Asset Recovery Network of GAFILAT (RRAG), the Asset Recovery Inter Agency Network for Southern Africa (ARINSA), the Asset Recovery Inter Agency Network for Eastern Africa (ARIN-EA), and the Asset Recovery Inter Agency Network – Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP).

StAR offers to support to the GELAVEX project by providing technical support for the design of the tool with the GELAVEX Project Coordinator, hosting the tool on the StAR website, and maintenance of the tool to ensure the links remain valid and updating new information provided by the GELAVEX Project Coordinator. Access to the information would be publicly available to all users. After a pilot phase of the project tool with information from OAS Member States and an assesment of the impact of the tool’s usefulness to practitioners, StAR could then consider to partner with other global or regional networks to add similar open source information from all countries willing to participate. As a result, users would have a single point of access to search information globally.