



**UNODC**

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**  
*Regional Office for West and Central Africa*

**Office des Nations Unies contre la drogue et le crime**  
*Bureau Régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre*



**WACAP**  
West African Network of Central Authorities  
and Prosecutors against Organized Crime



**A R I N W A**  
Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa  
Réseau Inter-agence de recouvrement des avoirs pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest  
Rede Inter-serviços de Recuperação de Bens para a África Ocidental



**Joint Declaration issued during the Plenary meeting  
of the  
West African Network of Central  
Authorities and Prosecutors against Organised  
Crime (WACAP) and the Asset Recovery Inter-  
Agency Network for West Africa (ARIN-WA)  
24-26 October 2017,  
Saly, Senegal**

The seventh plenary meeting of the West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP), in conjunction with the fourth plenary meeting of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa (ARINWA), took place in Saly, Senegal, on 24-26 October 2017.

Following the discussions of the meeting, the representatives of the two organizations adopted the below declaration:

- 1- The WACAP and ARINWA representatives recognized the importance of the free exchange of information relating to the challenges linked to the effective prosecution of fugitives within their countries, the main initiatives used to respond to such challenges and the sharing of specific examples, lessons learned and successful experiences relating to judicial cooperation between countries.
- 2- The WACAP and ARINWA networks are aware of the difficulties associated with double nationality in the case of requests received and committed to using all legal means, in accordance with international standards and national legislation in order to allow for effective cooperation between countries.
- 3- The WACAP and ARINWA representatives also highlighted the problem of language barriers. The representatives are committed to facilitating the translation of the necessary official documents to enable international cooperation as well as exploring informal means of communication.
- 4- The members of the two networks highlighted the lack of knowledge of their role among their peers which hinders the process of requesting information and mutual assistance. The representatives plan on more actively disseminating information about their roles and their networks' activities.
- 5- The spontaneous sharing of information between representatives has been encouraged in order to prevent evidence from being altered or lost.
- 6- The WACAP and ARINWA representatives are aware that establishing institutions alone does not constitute a solution to the problem of asset recovery and of international cooperation in criminal matters generally, if these organs are not equipped with sufficient material and human resources, including development of databases, case management systems and maintaining applicable legislation.
- 7- The WACAP and ARINWA networks intend to continue their collaboration and plan to arrange joint meetings between practitioners to discuss measures against money laundering, criminal asset recovery mechanisms, fight against terrorism and international organized crime and experience as well as best practices sharing.