In December 2017, UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) launched the Global Initiative on Handling Electronic Evidence jointly with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP).

The current issue will thus provide further information on various aspects of the work of the Global Initiative and will present e-evidence tools, including SHERLOC's new Electronic Evidence Hub.

The SHERLOC Team
UNODC supports Member States with improving their capacity to manage e-evidence with a series of technical tools, training, mentoring services, and networking of relevant authorities.

At the centre of this work is the SHERLOC Electronic-Evidence Hub (EEH), a brand-new one-stop window which encompasses jurisprudence and national laws relevant to electronic evidence, as well as all the practical resources developed by the Global Initiative, in cooperation with experts and practitioners and communication service providers.

The EEH includes model forms on preservation and disclosure of data; model requests for mutual legal assistance of stored electronic evidence and/or real-time collection of traffic data; and a Data Disclosure Framework that outlines practices developed by international service providers in responding to overseas requests for data.

The Hub also hosts the password-protected Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders, which was updated in 2021 with additional practical information and the expanded mapping of the contact details and legal requests policies of service providers.

The Practical Guide is a step-by-step handbook for criminal justice officials to effectively obtain and utilize vital electronic evidence. It provides practitioners with best practice from experts in the field, legal procedures from States, and contact points to assist practitioners on how to request and produce the electronic evidence needed for trial.
THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE

UNODC and CTED consistently mainstream human rights law into all of the Global Initiatives’ activities and tools, integrating relevant jurisprudence and documents from UN human rights mechanisms, and working alongside the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, while countering terrorism in the development of the Practical Guide and the Data Disclosure Framework.

The Global Initiative advocates for the lawful and human rights-compliant collection and gathering of electronic evidence, by drawing attention to relevant human rights obligations, such as those enshrined in the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):

- Right to life (ICCPR Art. 6)
- Freedom from torture and other ill-treatment (ICCPR Art. 7)
- Right to liberty and security of the person (ICCPR Art. 9)
- Right to privacy and reputation (ICCPR Art. 17)
- Non-discrimination (ICCPR Art. 26)
- Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (ICCPR Art. 18)
- Freedom of expression (ICCPR Art. 19)
- Freedom of peaceful assembly (ICCPR Art. 21)
- Freedom of association (ICCPR Art. 22)
- Freedom of movement (ICCPR Art. 12)
- Rights to a fair trial and due process of law (ICCPR Art. 14)
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Global Initiative fosters the development of public-private partnerships with Member States, international, regional and sub-regional organizations (such as Eurojust, Europol and the European Judicial Network) and communication service providers. Both the Practical Guide and the Data Disclosure Framework are the outcomes of multi-stakeholder processes, facilitated by the Global Initiative under the coordination of UNODC and CTED.

Over the past years, the Global Initiative has built stable and lasting cooperation with major international online communication service providers, a move that has significantly contributed to the implementation of Security Council mandates on new technologies, use of the Internet and terrorist recruitment via social media.

SHERLOC'S FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE

ARE YOU A SHERLOC USER? PLEASE HELP US IMPROVE BY PROVIDING FEEDBACK! SEE THE FEEDBACK SURVEY HERE.
MODEL PROVISIONS ON ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE

Paragraph 13.b of Security Council resolution 2322 (2016) calls upon the enactment, review and update of mutual legal assistance laws, considering the substantial increase in the volume of request for digital data.

In 2021, in line with the above-mentioned resolution and pursuant to resolution 10/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention (UNTOC), the Global Initiative engaged in updating the 2007 UNODC Model Law on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters with provisions on electronic evidence and special investigative techniques.

Throughout 2021, different rounds of consultations among national experts have taken place and it is expected that the final model provisions will be ready in 2022. For more information, please see here.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON HANDLING ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE:

1. Visit the SHERLOC Electronic Evidence Hub
2. Download the Model Forms on Preservation and Disclosure of Electronic Data
3. Register to access the Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence
4. Have a look at the Data Disclosure Framework
5. Subscribe to UNODC Electronic Evidence Hub playlist on YouTube
6. Join a growing LinkedIn community of electronic evidence professionals

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

SHERLOC’s work, on electronic evidence and many other areas, has been possible due to the generous contributions of Australia, China, the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, Qatar, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.
SEASON’S GREETINGS!
FROM THE SHERLOC TEAM
Ms. Arianna Lepore is the Coordinator of the Global Initiative on Electronic Evidence within the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC since 2017.

Ms. Lepore, an Italian jurist, holds a Master Degree in Law and a Master Degree in Criminology, and has 20 years of work experience at both the national and international level in the field of crime prevention, including terrorism prevention, criminal justice reform, rule of law, programme management and delivery of related technical assistance activities globally.

Ms. Lepore has solid experience in planning, designing, managing, and facilitating legal training, including train the trainer’s programs, and she has coordinated a number of training on Result-Based Management as well as monitoring and evaluation approaches and tools.

Ms. Lepore worked with a wide range of international/inter-governmental organizations (ITLOS, UNA-USA, DPKO/UNMIK, IDLO, IAEA and UNODC) and in different duty stations, including in post-conflict and peace-building United Nations missions.