

25 May 2023

English only

**Working Group of Government Experts
on Technical Assistance**

Vienna, 29–30 May 2023

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Dissemination plan for the knowledge management
portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and
Laws on Crime (SHERLOC)****Dissemination plan for the knowledge management portal
known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime
(SHERLOC)****Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat****I. Purpose of the dissemination plan**

1. Pursuant to Resolution 11/2 entitled “Implementation of the provisions on technical assistance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was encouraged to “develop a dissemination plan to raise awareness of the usefulness of SHERLOC.”
2. In response, UNODC has prepared the present dissemination plan, which aims to provide States with an overview of the proposed and planned activities organized by UNODC to further promote the use of SHERLOC and its objectives in the short, medium and long term. The plan identifies the target audiences, clear communication objectives and messages, as well as planned activities that UNODC could implement with the support from States parties.

II. Target audiences

3. The SHERLOC Portal aims at providing information regarding the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its three Protocols and the international framework against terrorism.
4. The user base of the SHERLOC Portal includes policymakers, legislative drafters, criminal justice and law enforcement practitioners, members of national authorities responsible for international cooperation in criminal matters, other government officials, members of civil society organizations, academia and the

* [CTOC/COP/WG.2/2023/1](#).



private sector, members of international and regional organizations, students, media and youth.

III. Messages for each target group

5. In this section, the specific target groups and the proposed key communication messages are outlined.

Target group 1: Government officials, policymakers, legislative drafters, legislators, international and regional organizations, criminal justice practitioners including law enforcement authorities and prosecutors and judges.

Aim: Raise awareness of the usefulness of the SHERLOC Portal and of its databases as a repository of law, policy, and operational responses to 14 crime types of organized crime and to terrorism, with the aim of increasing the number of users from the target group benefiting from the Portal for purposes of legislative drafting, policy and strategy development, data collection and analysis and research.

Target group 2: Members of national central and competent authorities responsible for international cooperation in criminal matters.

Aim: Raise the visibility of SHERLOC's CNA Directory and Database of Legislation and raise awareness on their usefulness for the purposes of promoting international cooperation in criminal matters with the aim of increasing both the number of users of the Portal and the number of authorities and legislation included in the databases, and thus strengthening global efforts in international cooperation in criminal matters.

Target group 3: Academia and students

Aim 1: Raise awareness on SHERLOC's databases – in particular, the Education for Universities (Edu4U) database – as knowledge repositories and teaching aids, with the aim of providing resources and information useful for academics as well as students in their research and studies.

Aim 2: Raise awareness on additional cooperation activities between academic and educational institutions and UNODC, in particular, the promotion of summer and winter schools as opportunities for students to actively contribute to the SHERLOC Portal by analysing specific case law examples and providing summaries to be uploaded to the Portal.

Target group 4: Civil society organizations, including youth organizations

Aim: Raise the visibility of the SHERLOC Portal as a key resource for civil society organizations, including youth organizations, wishing to gain information on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention, its Protocols and the international legal framework against terrorism. In particular, raise awareness on the SHERLOC Portal as a fundamental resource within the framework of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols (hereinafter UNTOC Review Mechanism) where relevant stakeholders play a key role in providing inputs and suggestions for stronger implementation of the international legal framework.

IV. Dissemination approaches

6. In this section, key dissemination approaches are outlined including ongoing activities, forthcoming activities, social media campaigns, and high-level events, expert group meetings and intergovernmental meetings. These foreseen activities are subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and UNODC would welcome cooperation of States in the implementation of the below activities.

(a) Ongoing activities

UNODC promotes the SHERLOC Portal on an ongoing basis through the UNTOC review process, training and other capacity-building activities, as well as through awareness-raising and communication initiatives. In particular, UNODC will continue to promote SHERLOC at global, regional and national capacity-building activities, especially those on the implementation of the international legal framework, observations emanating from the UNTOC Review Mechanism, as well as international cooperation in criminal matters.

(b) Forthcoming activities

UNODC has prepared a list of forthcoming planned activities, available in Annex I, which includes bilateral consultations with Member States, initiatives to strengthen cooperation with civil society organizations, presentations at universities and academic institutes with the purpose of increasing knowledge on 14 crime types of organized crime and on terrorism and awareness on the usefulness of the SHERLOC Portal. In particular, UNODC will focus on strengthening partnerships with relevant international organizations and develop new partnerships with relevant legal libraries, academic institutions and professional networks.

(c) Social media campaigns and related activities

UNODC will continue to promote SHERLOC through the Twitter account dedicated to UNTOC and its implementation (@UNODC_UNTOC) highlighting the usefulness of its databases, showcasing testimonials of users who benefit from the Portal, and through the quarterly newsletter, which highlights the recent developments relating to the Portal.

(d) High-level events, expert group meetings and intergovernmental meetings

UNODC will identify key events to raise awareness on and the visibility of SHERLOC and highlight its usefulness and importance. For instance, an upgrade of the legislation database is foreseen in order to improve user experience.

(e) Accessibility and inclusion

UNODC takes steps to actively promote disability inclusion. Where applicable and subject to the availability of resources, UNODC will strive to ensure that all activities carried out within the SHERLOC dissemination plan are in line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and aim at achieving gender equality and geographical representation.

V. Dissemination tools

7. UNODC will continue to use its existing communication tools and might consider establishing new ones as the need may arise.

(a) *Social Media and digital advocacy products*: Information on the SHERLOC Portal and its databases is disseminated through the @UNODC_UNTOC Twitter account. Social media content includes data on the Portal's new resources and developments, testimonials from users, digital content such as podcasts, and information on events during which SHERLOC is presented. For example, in 2022, the SHERLOC team organized an advocacy campaign dedicated to the tenth anniversary of the Portal, which included over 31 tweets and 12 videos with user testimonials, which gathered over 24,914 impressions to date.

(b) *Tools and Publications*: UNODC tools and publications are a key communication tool to raise awareness of the usefulness of the SHERLOC Portal as they disseminate information available on the Portal, such as legislation, case law and

other information, to target stakeholders, thus increasing the visibility of the Portal and the number of its users.

(c) *UNODC and partners' websites*: UNODC will continue to promote the SHERLOC Portal and its development through news and information published on UNODC websites including the main UNODC website, the website of the Organized Crime Branch, the website of the UNTOC Review Mechanism, and the website of the Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention: from Theory to Practice, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/review-mechanism-untoc/revmod.html>, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/review-mechanism-untoc/home.html. UNODC will seek the support of its partners in further disseminating relevant information on SHERLOC through their websites in order to widen the reach of the Portal and increase its number of users.

(d) *Events*: Information on the SHERLOC Portal is included into multiple events organized by the Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention: from Theory to Practice, particularly within its workstreams on legislative and strategic frameworks, as well as international cooperation against organized crime. Furthermore, information on SHERLOC is disseminated through targeted bilateral consultations that are organized by the SHERLOC team in the framework of intergovernmental forums on organized crime (such as the UNTOC Conference of the Parties and its Working Groups, as well as the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice).

Annex I.

**List of ongoing and forthcoming activities, and
awareness-raising and communication activities planned
until October 2026**

Activity	Sub-activity	Target audience
Ongoing activities – promoting interlinkages of SHERLOC and other work	Continue to present and promote the SHERLOC Portal at global, regional and national capacity-building activities organized by the Global Programme	Practitioners, policymakers, legislative drafters, international and regional organizations, civil society and academia
	Continue to use and cross-reference SHERLOC as source of legislation, case law and strategies cited in publications produced by the Global Programme	Practitioners, policymakers, legislative drafters, students, academia and civil society
	Continue promoting the SHERLOC portal as a tool to share information on the implementation of UNTOC and the Protocol, as included in the UNTOC Review Mechanism	Practitioners, policymakers, legislative drafters, international and regional organizations, civil society and academia
Forthcoming activities – strengthening existing partnerships and developing new partnerships (subject to availability of funding)	Enhance the network of national points of contact on SHERLOC by promoting the nomination of a SHERLOC Focal Point	Practitioners and policymakers
	Liaise with relevant international and regional organizations, including through the United Nations inter-agency practice group against all forms of trafficking, with the view to raising awareness on SHERLOC, as well as identifying possible synergies and potential for collaborations	International and regional organizations
	Liaise with academia and Member States on further improving the structure and content of the Portal	Academia, practitioners, policymakers, legislative drafters
	Strengthen partnerships with legal libraries with a view to enhance data collection and increase cross-referencing with the SHERLOC Portal and the resources it hosts	Private sector, students and academia
	Strengthen partnerships with relevant civil society organizations to increase their use of SHERLOC and develop potential collaborations in further enhancing the dataset of the Portal	Civil society
	Strengthen partnerships with relevant professional networks (i.e. IAP, AIAMP, etc.), including bar associations, to promote the SHERLOC Portal and conduct, in case of interest, trainings and other technical assistance	Practitioners

Activity	Sub-activity	Target audience
	Identify and foster further opportunities for disseminating information on SHERLOC in the academic sphere through participation and presentations at relevant conferences on organized crime	Students, academia and civil society
	Strengthen cross-referencing with universities with online libraries, including through the addition of the SHERLOC Portal in their list of databases	Students and academia
	Continue the organization of summer and winter schools on organized crime that include a SHERLOC component	Students and academia
	Identify and contact relevant university departments or professors to brief on SHERLOC and Edu4U database and discuss the integration of SHERLOC into the curricula	Students and academia
	Organize annual essay/case law competitions to raise awareness on the SHERLOC Portal and gather additional resources	Students and academia
	Update the promotional materials and merchandise of the Portal in order to foster a stronger brand identity	Practitioners, policymakers, legislative drafters, students, academia, civil society and international/regional organizations
Social media campaigns and related activities	Continue using Twitter to disseminate information and news regarding SHERLOC and its databases	Practitioners, policymakers, legislative drafters, students, academia, civil society and international/regional organizations
	Produce and launch a #HowTo Twitter campaign, including testimonials and short videos, focusing on the use by different types of stakeholders	Practitioners, policymakers, legislative drafters, students, academia, civil society and international/regional, organizations
	Intensify the use of LinkedIn as an additional outreach tool to reach specific professional groups	Practitioners
	Continue publishing quarterly SHERLOC Newsletters	Practitioners, policymakers, students, academia and civil society
	Produce another season of the SHERLOC podcast series	Practitioners, policymakers, students, academia and civil society
	Continue to liaise with the Advocacy Section of UNODC to further promote the usefulness of the SHERLOC Portal through additional channels	Practitioners, policymakers, legislative drafters, students, academia, civil society and international/regional organizations

Activity	Sub-activity	Target audience
Promote SHERLOC at high-level, expert group and intergovernmental meetings	Continue offering virtual and in-person bilateral consultations on SHERLOC, in the margins of intergovernmental meetings in the Vienna International Centre	Policymakers and practitioners
	Launch the restructured Database of Legislation of the SHERLOC Portal at the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention	Policymakers and practitioners
	Continue organizing SHERLOC Resource Centres at intergovernmental meetings	Policymakers
	Explore the possibility of organizing an exhibition on the ground floor of the Vienna International Centre to raise awareness on the Portal	Policymakers and students
	Organize a multi-stakeholder expert group meeting on SHERLOC in order to further improve the visibility, content, structure and user experience of the Portal	Practitioners, policymakers, students, academia and civil society