

UNODC Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool (MLA tool)



The MLA tool is a web-based application designed to operate seamlessly across a wide range of devices and operating systems, ensuring broad accessibility and consistent user experience. It enables cooperation between States, by assisting criminal justice practitioners, particularly officers of central authorities, in **drafting MLA requests**, as well as in **sharing draft requests with their counterparts for quality control and co-drafting purposes**. The MLA tool provides guidance to practitioners through each step of the drafting process, helping them to fill in all relevant information. The MLA tool is structured around three main inter-operable modules:

- Module on **General Assistance**
- Specific Module on **Asset Recovery**
- Specific Module on **Assistance Involving Electronic Evidence**

The upgraded MLA Tool is synchronised with data available across [SHERLOC knowledge management portal](#) and the [CNA Directory](#).

UNODC finalised the upgrading of the MLA tool, in 2025, thanks to the generous contribution from China, under the strategic cooperation between the Ministry of Justice of China and UNODC, to further implement the Joint Plan of Action on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

ACCESS

Access to the MLA tool is reserved to officials from national central and competent authorities and Permanent Missions to the United Nations who have an individual account to access the CNA Directory.

New User can register on this [page](#).

Registered Users can start using the web-based MLA Tool app [here](#)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Due to a technical upgrade and ongoing efforts to establish a unified registration system for UNODC tools, all registered users of the online Directory of Competent National Authorities and/or the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool will be required to create new login credentials. Starting 20 November 2025, access using previous credentials will no longer be possible. Users are therefore kindly requested to complete the registration process again on this [page](#).

CONTACT US

For further information or assistance:

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