

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTORS

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Logo



- The blue background of the logo, which evokes the colour of the United Nations, underscores that the International Association of Prosecutors is a worldwide organisation bringing together prosecutors and prosecution agencies of all nations;
- The presence of the blindfolded Lady Justice as the key component of the logo, clearly illustrates that prosecutors must pursue the objectives of justice within the rule of law in a process that is fair, transparent, objective and accountable;
- The globe, which appears in the background of the logo, symbolises the primacy of the rule of law in the administration of criminal justice around the world. It also reflects the international scope of the mandate and objectives of the Association;
- The circular shape of the logo is a symbol of unity and serves as a reminder that international cooperation and assistance between prosecutors from all legal systems is the most effective tool in the fight against transnational crime; and
- The sword in the left hand of Lady Justice exemplifies the essential role that prosecutors play in protecting and upholding the public interest.

Statement from the President

Dear fellow prosecutor,

Since the establishment in 1995, the IAP, the one and only international organisation for prosecutors, has overcome numerous challenges and achieved a lot through tireless devotion and endeavors of prosecutors around the world.

For more than a decade, I have had precious memories within the IAP, as a delegate, a Member of Executive Committee and Vice President, and now President. Therefore the IAP has become a crucial part of my 30 years of professional life.



Actively participating in various meetings and events of the IAP, I have been blessed with chances to communicate closely and share knowledge and experiences with fellow prosecutors from the other countries with different legal systems. The IAP sometimes acts as my compass that guides me to the direction I should choose.

Pursuing our ultimate goal, 'Rule of Law' and 'Criminal Justice', the IAP now lies before all of you, as the effective and efficient international organisation in criminal justice, based on direct contact and speedy response. I believe that this brochure will guide you as a kind and friendly gateway to such valuable activities and much more of the IAP.

I hope to see you soon!

Cheol-Kyu Hwang

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheol-Kyu Hwang'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

PRESIDENT OF THE IAP

About the IAP

The [International Association of Prosecutors \(IAP\)](#) is an [independent, non-governmental and non-political organisation](#) and the only [worldwide](#) professional association for prosecutors.

The IAP was established on the 6th of June 1995 at the United Nations offices in Vienna and was formally inaugurated in September 1996 at its first general meeting in Budapest. The main impetus leading to its formation was the rapid growth in serious transnational crime, particularly drug trafficking, money laundering and fraud. The need was perceived for greater international cooperation between prosecutors and for greater speed and efficiency in mutual legal assistance, asset tracking and other international cooperative measures which remain important priorities.

Since the IAP was established in 1995 it has been growing steadily. Today, the [IAP brings inspiration, networking and education](#) to more than 350,000 prosecutors in 183 countries and territories around the world.



Financial Organisation

The IAP's administration is based on the [Foundation Treasury International Association of Prosecutors](#). It is a non-profit foundation ("Stichting") under the Dutch law and has legal personality. It is based in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The annual budget is about EUR 500,000, almost entirely made up of membership fees.

Vision and the Mission

The IAP is an [international community of prosecutors](#) committed to: setting and raising standards of [professional conduct and ethics for prosecutors worldwide](#); promoting the [rule of law, fairness, impartiality](#) and [respect for human rights](#); and improving [international cooperation](#) to combat crime.

Its [mission](#) is to be a world authority for prosecutors in the conduct of criminal prosecutions and associated matters and to operate as an international organisation of high repute and referral.

10 Objectives

The [objectives](#) of the IAP are to:

1. Promote the effective, fair, impartial and efficient prosecution of criminal offences;
2. Respect and seek to protect human rights as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1948;
3. Promote high standards and principles in the administration of criminal justice, including procedures to guard against or address miscarriages of justice, in support of the rule of law;
4. Promote and enhance those standards and principles which are generally recognised internationally as necessary for the proper and independent prosecution of offences;
5. Assist prosecutors internationally in the fight against organised or other serious crime, and for that purpose promote:
 - international cooperation in gathering and providing evidence, in tracking, seizing and forfeiting the proceeds of serious crime and in the prosecution of fugitive criminals;
 - speed and efficiency in such international cooperation;
6. Promote measures for the elimination of corruption in public administration;
7. Promote the professional interests of prosecutors and enhance recognition of their crucial role in achieving criminal justice;
8. Promote good relations between individual prosecutors and prosecution agencies; facilitate the exchange and dissemination among them of information, expertise and experience; and, to that end, encourage the use of information technology;
9. Promote examination of comparative criminal law and procedure and assist prosecutors engaged in justice reform projects; and
10. Cooperate with international juridical organisations in furtherance of the above objectives.

Benefits of Membership

A membership of the International Association of Prosecutors can contribute to the securing of better evidence for prosecutors, the expedition of cases with transnational elements, more effective mutual legal assistance and cooperation and speedy access to relevant legislation and case law – all in the context of effective person-to-person communications.

In February 2020, the organisation had about 850 [individual members](#). The IAP has over [180 organisational members](#), including associations of prosecutors, prosecuting agencies and crime prevention agencies. Taken together, this represents over 350,000 prosecutors in more than 170 countries and territories around the world.

Overall benefits of membership:

- Membership of the only worldwide and exclusive network of prosecutors;
- Support in matters of professional risk of dangers and security and protection of prosecutors and their families;
- Access to the IAP websites restricted to members;
- Access to the IAP specialist networks facilitating exchange of information and share of best practices;
- Access to the IAP global prosecutors contact database (inclusive MLA Contacts);
- Access to IAP publications;
- Access to library of presentations from IAP conferences and training initiatives;
- Receipt of IAP e-bulletins highlighting new activities, projects and keeping members updated on latest developments and trends;
- Opportunity to publish and distribute articles and papers for prosecutors;
- Opportunity to contribute in IAP projects and programmes;
- Eligibility to participate in the annual IAP conference, the world's biggest conference for prosecutors;
- Eligibility to attend other IAP conferences and co-hosted events; and
- Eligibility to attend learning initiatives, training sessions and webinars.

Benefits of Individual Membership:

- Personal IAP membership ID card;
- Direct receipt of e-news and updates;
- Possibility of making your potential specialist skills known to the global society of prosecutors and key partners;
- Possibility of promoting yourself as a potential conference speaker, training course director or reform project candidate; and
- Eligibility to attend and engage personally in online discussions and debates.

Benefits of an Organisational Membership:

The principal benefits of an Organisational Membership, for the head of the agency and the individual prosecutors working within it include:

- Free (password-protected) access to the IAP websites and networks for all employees working within the member organisation;
- Eligibility for any prosecutors working within a member organisation to become involved in and attend IAP projects, programmes, conferences and other IAP events;
- Demonstrate accountability by committing to work in accordance with the IAP Standards of Professional Responsibility and Statement of the Essential Duties and Rights of Prosecutors;
- Eligibility to use IAP facilities and networks to arrange bilateral exchanges and meetings with relevant global prosecution authorities and their members;
- Ability to network and make ongoing arrangements with other prosecuting authorities and their members during the programmes of the IAP annual and regional Conferences;
- Eligibility for the head of a prosecution service to attend the exclusive annual meetings of heads of prosecutions services;
- Eligibility to access an online platform which provides contact details of global counter terrorism MLA contact points and information about practical procedures for putting forward and responding to MLA requests in counter-terrorism cases;
- Possibility of saving working hours by making local MLA contact points, legal frameworks and (MLA) procedures known to and accessible for others global prosecution services;
- Possibility to let local specialist prosecutors engage in the global community of prosecutors through virtual platforms;
- Eligibility to host an IAP conference or training event and raise topics of special interest; and
- Eligibility to nominate candidates for IAP Awards in order to make local prosecutors or teams known and recognised for their outstanding achievements.

IAP Officers and Organs

The [Executive Committee](#) is, subject to the decision of the General Meeting, the governing body of the Association. The Association elects a [President](#), up to nine [Vice-Presidents](#) and up to 21 other [ordinary members](#) constituting the Executive Committee. The membership of the Executive Committee shall reflect the regions of the world in which the Association has members.

The IAP Officials: The Executive Committee appoints a [Secretary-General](#) who is the Chief Executive of the Association and manages its day to day affairs. A [General Counsel](#) who is the legal counsellor and who manages the professional programme and project work of the Association. There is also an [Executive Director](#) who is responsible for the membership relations and recruitment and for the Association's network development and facilitation.

The [Senate](#) of the Association consists of past members of the Executive Committee. It operates in collaboration with the President and the Executive Committee. The Senate serves as an advisory body and has other responsibilities to promote the objects and functioning of the Association.

In addition to the Executive Committee and the Senate, the Association has a [Conflict Committee](#) which is the supreme authority for the resolution of legal disputes and five other Committees charged with specific functions relating to the objectives and activities of the Association.

Professional Programmes

To realise its goals, the IAP deploys its resources in [three groups of programmes](#):

[First](#), to safeguard the role of the prosecutor and his or her role as a legal officer, the IAP actively advocates the functional independence and legal accountability of prosecutors and develops practical responses to challenges to this as they arise globally. Furthermore, the IAP monitors threats to the safety and security of prosecutors and supports the development of practical strategies for relevant authorities to respond to these threats. The IAP also manages a worldwide programme for prosecutors in difficulty. The IAP responds to prosecutors' requests for assistance when they report being victims of violations of professional standards of prosecutors and/or other legal instruments.

[Second](#), the IAP builds and maintains worldwide communities for prosecutors to share experience and challenges in a trusting professional environment. Through annual conferences and regional meetings and workshops, the IAP routinely brings together frontline prosecutors, specialists and heads of prosecution services. In 2017, six regional and global conferences were held. Through our rapidly growing online specialised networks and communities, the IAP provides online platforms for prosecution contact points and specialists in a constantly increasing range of crime areas. The IAP has specialised networks and communities in the areas of cybercrime, international criminal justice, trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling, counter-terrorism, anti-corruption and financial crime, military prosecutions, and conflict-related sexual violence. Currently, new specialist networks are being considered for associations of prosecutors and for prosecutors dealing with consumer protection, wildlife crime and environmental crime.

[Third](#), the IAP produces the world's leading statements of professional standards of prosecution, as well as best practices and guidelines in different areas of crime. The IAP also facilitates specialised learning programmes in international criminal justice and mutual legal assistance. Some areas we are currently focussing on are mutual legal assistance, counter-terrorism investigations and prosecutions, cybercrime, financial crime, and conflict-related sexual violence.

The IAP works in close partnership with other international organisations in several of these programmes. Examples include UNODC, UN CTED, OSCE, CoE, Eurojust, EJM, EJTN, ABA, IBA, IAJ, APA, IAACA and IACA.

The IAP Senior Legal Advisor is supporting the General Counsel in the development and facilitation of training, workshop and conference programmes and in the development of learning material and specialised resource databases.

For more information about the professional activities of the Association, please contact the General Counsel: gc@iap-association.org.

Specialist Networks and Communities

Over the years, the IAP has identified a serious need for [training](#) and [exchange of best practices](#) on legal (substantive and procedural) standards in dealing with transnational crime in several different specialist areas. The IAP aims to address this need by: 1) making it easier for members [to connect and interact with other prosecutors globally](#); 2) sharing prosecutors' knowledge of [best practices](#); and 3) facilitating the [education and training](#) of prosecutors.

The IAP specialist networks aim to: enhance international cooperation; improve the exchange of information to reduce duplication and significantly raise analytical and prosecuting capacity across national borders; provide global training fora with resources and expertise from around the world; and, not least, enable prosecutors around the globe to exchange information and data quickly and efficiently. The specialist networks further aim to improve accountability through focused global dialogue, increased commitment, collection and developing of resources, facilitation of peer-to-peer problem solving and training of prosecutors.

The IAP specialist Networks on [Cybercrime \(GPEN\)](#), [international criminal justice \(FICJ\)](#), [trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling \(TIPP\)](#), [conflict-related sexual violence \(PSV\)](#), [counter-terrorism \(CTPN\)](#), [anti-corruption and financial crime \(NACP\)](#), [military prosecutions \(NMP\)](#), [prosecutors dealing with consumer protection \(PCPN\)](#) and [associations of prosecutors](#) aim to give prosecutors access to the following;

- [Lists of contacts](#) within the IAP specialist fields of cybercrime, international criminal justice and trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling;
- [Libraries of information](#) designed to enable prosecutors worldwide to share best practices and expertise with each other; and
- [Learning centres with free access to training material](#) suitable to be downloaded, adapted and/or improved for use by prosecutors around the world;
- Functional and easy [access](#) to navigate operational networks and [discussion fora](#) facilitating professional exchanges among members sharing the same field of interest (in order to contribute actively to the discussion fora individual membership is required)

Some of these [online web-platforms](#) are still being developed by prosecutors worldwide and will, through active involvement and contributions from membership, progress with increasing amounts of learning material, guidelines, best practices, lists of contacts and discussions.

At the moment other networks two additional networks are under consideration: a forum for prosecutors dealing with [wildlife crime](#) and prosecutors dealing with [environmental crime](#).

For more information about the specialist networks of the Association, please contact the Executive Administration Manager, pcm@iap-association.org.

Prosecutors Exchange Programme

In 2009 the IAP established the [Prosecutors Exchange Programme \(PEP\)](#). Under the PEP the IAP encourages and facilitates the coordination and administration of both bilateral prosecutor exchanges and one-way placements for limited time periods and for specific purposes between the prosecution offices of different but compatible (as to language and legal tradition) countries and legal jurisdictions. **Please note, this programme is open only to organisational members of the IAP.*

As criminal activity and methods to combat it become increasingly international, prosecution offices around the world must work together more closely than in previous eras. PEP will facilitate the exchange and dissemination of information, expertise and experience among prosecution offices and contribute to the professional development of both the exchange prosecutors and the offices that they serve.

To date, approximately 50 prosecution agencies from around the world have registered to participate in the PEP. The interests of the registered participants include: seeking assistance with the training and development of prosecutors; seeking assistance with the prosecution of certain kinds of crimes; offering training in many aspects of criminal prosecutions; professional development opportunities for prosecutors; and the mentoring of prosecutors, to name but a few.

If you would like more information about the PEP or are interested in participating in it, please contact either Nicola Mahaffy, Crown Counsel, Ministry of Attorney General, Prosecution Service, British Columbia, Canada +1 (604) 660 9123 nicola.mahaffy@gov.bc.ca or Nicholas Cowdery AO QC, Former DPP, New South Wales, Australia and former IAP President ncowdery@optusnet.com.au.

Prosecutors in Difficulty

The [Standing Committee on Prosecutors in Difficulty \(SCPID\)](#), which operates in accordance with its guiding Protocol, exists to help prosecutors who turn to the IAP for assistance. The IAP has a vital role to play in safeguarding the interests of prosecutors, and, by virtue of the Protocol, clear procedures are in place to ensure that when prosecutors seek assistance, they receive the support they need.

After receiving a case from the IAP Secretary-General, the SCPID investigates the matter, identifies possible solutions and make recommendations as to how the case can be resolved. Having ascertained the facts, the SCPID is guided by recognised prosecutorial principles and by the situation in the jurisdiction concerned. The SCPID is committed to ensuring that the interests of prosecutors are fully protected and that their concerns are handled in a principled way.

How to Become a Member

Individual membership of the IAP is open to lawyers who are, or have been, prosecutors.

'Prosecutors' means a lawyer who is or has been appointed by or on behalf of a state, or other public authority, including an international public authority, to institute or conduct criminal proceedings or to perform other functions in a prosecution service in accordance with law, or who is elected for that purpose, and includes a lawyer who has regularly been retained by a prosecutor so appointed or elected to conduct or assist in the conduct of criminal prosecutions and also includes examining magistrates.

The annual IAP membership year starts on 1 January and ends the following 31 December.

Applications received before 1 October are valid for the current membership year and applications received after that date are valid for the rest of the current membership year and the following year. Once your application and payment have been successfully processed you will receive a final confirmation of your membership together with a personal IAP membership ID card.

The annual subscription for an individual member is EUR 50. Payment can either be made online by using a credit card or by bank transfer.

Approximately one month prior to the end of the current membership year all members of the IAP will receive an invitation to pay their annual dues for the next membership year. Another reminder will follow within a couple of weeks.

For more information about the individual membership of the Association, please contact the Executive Administration Manager, pcm@iap-association.org.

Organisational membership of the IAP is open to:

- An association of prosecutors organised on a country or a jurisdictional basis;
- A prosecution service organised on a country or a jurisdictional basis; and
- An organisation, agency or foundation established for the promotion of crime prevention measures and the functions of which are closely connected with the prosecution of crime or an international unit, body, organisation or forum established by a state(s) or by a prosecution service to stimulate and improve coordination and cooperation between competent national prosecuting authorities.

The annual IAP membership year starts on 1 January and ends the following 31 December. Applications received before 1 October are valid for the current membership year and applications received after that date are valid for the rest of the current membership year and the following year. Once your application and payment have been successfully processed you will receive a final confirmation of your membership.

From the IAP Financial Protocol, the annual subscriptions are payable primarily in accordance with the agencies' annual budgets as follows;

- I. Prosecution Services with annual budgets of EUR 20 million and over – subscription EUR 10,000;
- II. Prosecution Services with annual budgets of EUR 5 million up to EUR 20 million – subscription EUR 5,000; and
- III. Prosecution Services with annual budgets less than EUR 5 million – subscription EUR 2,000.

Organisational members which are prosecuting agencies

Subscriptions of less than the prescribed sums may be negotiated with the Secretary-General when the following conditions apply:

- An agency represents less than 10 prosecutors, such as small prosecution services or specialised divisions within prosecution services. The negotiated rate should mirror the number of prosecutors, but cannot be less than EUR 500;
- An agency can demonstrate special circumstances that support a discounted rate, such as special financial hardship. Countries and territories according to the DAC (Development Assistance Committee) list of ODA (Official Development Assistance) recipients are automatically considered to be in financial hardship and thus entitled to negotiate with the Secretary-General a discount rate at a minimum rate of EUR 1,000. DAC list countries may expect renegotiation of terms every three years; and
- Organisations from least developed countries, according to the list of the United Nations, are exempt from the standard terms and will enjoy membership at a minimum rate of EUR 500.

Organisational members which are associations of individual prosecutors

- Annual subscriptions are payable primarily in accordance with the number of individual members of the association at the rate of EUR 2 per member rounded up to the next hundred with a minimum subscription of EUR 500;
- Associations may subscribe larger sums; and
- Subscriptions of less than the prescribed sums may be negotiated upon the demonstration of special circumstances, particularly financial hardship. Associations from least developed countries, according to the list of the United Nations, are automatically considered to be in financial hardship and thus entitled to negotiate with the Secretary-General a discounted rate at a minimum of EUR 250.

An application for organisational membership will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval.

For more information about organisational membership of the Association, please contact the Executive Director, ed@iap-association.org.

Payment

Payment of individual and organisational annual dues can be made online by using a credit card or by making a transfer of funds to the bank account of 'the Treasury of the International Association of Prosecutors'.

Any charges related to a bank transfer rest solely with the payer.

Each January all organisational members will receive an invitation to pay their annual dues for the new membership year. Yearly subscriptions are payable in full within 90 days of the date of the invoice.

Upon request, means of payment or an extension of time to make payment may be negotiated with the Secretary-General.

If payment of a subscription is not made within the specified period, membership will be suspended, and a formal notice will be issued by the Secretary-General. Such notice will be published in the following edition of the IAP E-Newsletter.

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