**Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence**

**Across Borders**

**Special Presentation – IAP General Counsel**

Dear Prosecutor’s General, Attorney General’s, ladies and gentlemen.

May I start by thanking our close partners, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

The development and implementation of the Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders has been a truly collaborative effort between the International Association or Prosecutors (IAP) and our partners.

In the last decade, the number of internet users has more than doubled and now more than half of the world’s population is online.

A recent European study found that 55% of criminal investigations require cross border access to electronic evidence.

As prosecutors, our need to obtain electronic evidence across borders is growing and will continue to do so.

And with that need, the challenges will grow as well:

The technical challenges of identifying and preserving digital evidence while respecting legitimate privacy concerns.

The logistical challenges of examining huge quantities of digital data to ensure all relevant information is disclosed in proceedings.

And, the jurisdictional challenges where the accused, the victims and the digital evidence are all located in different countries and territories.

The Practical Guide provides practical guidance and advice to help prosecutors meet the challenges – guidance and advice obtained from front-line prosecutors with a wealth of experience requesting electronic evidence across borders.

The International Association of Prosecutors is determined to make the Practical Guide as accessible and interactive as possible:

Both English and Spanish versions of the Practical Guide are available to members on the IAP website.

With our partners we have delivered, and continue to deliver, a series of regional training sessions, bringing together prosecutors, representatives from law enforcement, Central Authorities and internet service providers.

The Practical Guide has been promoted at IAP events; most recently the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Conference in Minsk, and is the basis of a workshop at this Annual Conference.

Further, work is in hand to renew and refresh the IAP contacts data base and Global Directory of Prosecution Services to provide an essential digital address book of Counter Terrorism, Mutual Legal Assistance and other specialist prosecutors.

And on that point, while the Practical Guide is aimed at Counter Terrorism and Organised Crime cases, it is directly relevant and applicable to any case in which prosecutors need to obtain electronic evidence across borders.

It is fitting that the theme of this Conference is International Co-operation as the Practical Guide is a valuable tool to help make that co-operation a reality.

I hope as many of you as possible take the opportunity to learn more about the Practical Guide at this conference.

Thank you.

Gary Balch

General Counsel

International Association of Prosecutors