



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

The Cabinet Office

Department of Communication and Information

PRESS RELEASE

December 9th 2015

CONTACT

Robin Holder

Ph: 294-9016 ex 1867

Email: rjholder@gov.bm

Minister of Legal Affairs Issues New Advisory on the Risks Relating to Deficiencies in Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing (AML/ATF) Systems and Controls in Specified Jurisdictions
(AML-ATF Ministerial Advisory 3/2015)

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Hon. Trevor Moniz, JP, MP, today issued the following advisory about the risks in a number of jurisdictions arising from inadequate systems and controls to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. Details on these risks were provided by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in statements which were released following its Plenary held in October, 2015. The Minister noted that the advice is especially relevant to those entities that have or are considering any business relationships with the specified jurisdictions or persons (individuals or corporate entities) in such jurisdictions.

The Proceeds of Crime (Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing) Regulations 2008 (the Regulations) require AML/ATF regulated financial institutions and other relevant persons to have policies, procedures or systems in place to prevent money laundering or terrorist financing. Under the Regulations, relevant persons are also required, under certain specified situations and also in those situations which are deemed to present a higher risk of money laundering or terrorist financing, to apply enhanced customer due diligence measures and/or on-going monitoring on a risk-sensitive basis.

Advisory

1. FATF Public Statement

On 23 October 2015, the FATF issued a public statement (**Annex A**) drawing attention to serious deficiencies in **Iran** and the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**. Both countries were identified in previous FATF public statements but continue to raise concerns for the FATF by their continued failure to adequately address on-going and substantial deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regimes. The FATF is particularly

and exceptionally concerned with Iran's failure to address the risk of terrorist financing and the serious threat this poses to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF therefore reaffirmed its call on its members to apply counter-measures against each jurisdiction.

In addition, the FATF separately drew attention in the public statement to **Myanmar**, as a country with strategic AML/CFT deficiencies that has not demonstrated satisfactory and sufficient progress in addressing the deficiencies. FATF noted that **Myanmar** has, for the most part, taken some steps to strengthen its regime. The FATF calls on its members to consider the risks arising from the deficiencies associated with the jurisdiction, details of which are provided in the public statement.

It should also be noted that, due to the satisfactory progress made in implementing its FATF-agreed action plan, Algeria's progress is now being monitored by the FATF as part of its On-Going AML/CFT Compliance Process; and as such they are now included in the FATF document, *"Improving Global AML/CFT Compliance: On-going Process"*.

2. 'On-going process to improve global AML/CFT compliance' document

In a separate publication on the on-going process to improve global AML/CFT compliance (**Annex B**), the FATF once again highlighted a number of jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies in their AML/CFT regimes and provided information on those deficiencies. FATF noted that, alongside the FATF Style Regional Bodies, it will continue to work with the jurisdictions in question and report on their progress in addressing the identified deficiencies. Once again the FATF called on these jurisdictions to complete the implementation of their agreed action plans expeditiously and within the proposed timeframes. The jurisdictions listed in this category are: **Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Guyana, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Syria, Uganda and Yemen.**

The FATF separately identified **Lao PDR** as 'not making sufficient progress' on its FATF-agreed action plan. This jurisdiction was urged to take sufficient action to implement significant components of its action plan by February 2016, and was warned that failure to do so will result in the FATF taking further action by identifying this jurisdiction as being out of compliance with its agreed action plan and additionally calling upon its members to consider the risks arising from the deficiencies associated with the jurisdiction.

Finally, the FATF welcomed the significant progress of **Ecuador and Sudan** in improving their AML/CFT regimes. These jurisdictions are therefore no longer subject to monitoring under the FATF's on-going global AML/CFT compliance process, but they will work with their relevant FATF-style regional body as they continue to address the issues identified in their Mutual Evaluation Reports and further strengthen their AML/CFT regime.

To ensure that an appropriate determination of the risks relating to these jurisdictions can be carried out, it is important that the annexed statements are read in their entirety. All financial institutions and other relevant persons, in the implementation of their systems and controls to combat financial crime, should give consideration to the FATF assessments and take appropriate actions in light of the associated risks.

It should be noted that a large number of jurisdictions have not yet been reviewed by the FATF, therefore the jurisdictions included in the FATF public statement and 'ongoing compliance' document are not intended to provide an exhaustive list of jurisdictions that should be considered by relevant persons to present a higher risk of money laundering or terrorist financing.

This advisory supersedes all previous advice issued by the Minister in connection with deficiencies in the AML/ATF systems and controls in the specified jurisdictions. It should be noted that the previous such advisory (AML-ATF Ministerial Advisory 2/2015) was issued in July 2015. Copies of previous advisories are available at www.namlc.bm.

Annex A: FATF Public Statement 23 October 2015

FATF Public Statement - 23 October 2015

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global standard setting body for anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). In order to protect the international financial system from money laundering and financing of terrorism (ML/FT) risks and to encourage greater compliance with the AML/CFT standards, the FATF identified jurisdictions that have strategic deficiencies and works with them to address those deficiencies that pose a risk to the international financial system.

Jurisdictions subject to a FATF call on its members and other jurisdictions to apply counter-measures to protect the international financial system from the on-going and substantial money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/FT) risks emanating from the jurisdictions.

Iran
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

Jurisdictions with strategic AML/CFT deficiencies that have not made sufficient progress in addressing the deficiencies or have not committed to an action plan developed with the FATF to address the deficiencies. The FATF calls on its members to consider the risks arising from the deficiencies associated with each jurisdiction, as described below.

Myanmar

Iran

The FATF remains particularly and exceptionally concerned about Iran's failure to address the risk of terrorist financing and the serious threat this poses to the integrity of the international financial system.

The FATF reaffirms its call on members and urges all jurisdictions to advise their financial institutions to give special attention to business relationships and transactions with Iran, including Iranian companies and financial institutions. In addition to enhanced scrutiny, the FATF reaffirms its 25 February 2009 call on its members and urges all jurisdictions to apply effective counter-measures to protect their financial sectors from money laundering and financing of terrorism (ML/FT) risks emanating from Iran. The FATF continues to urge jurisdictions to protect against correspondent relationships being used to bypass or evade counter-measures and risk mitigation practices and to take into account ML/FT risks when considering requests by Iranian financial institutions to open branches and subsidiaries in their jurisdiction. Due to the continuing terrorist financing threat emanating from Iran, jurisdictions should consider the steps already taken and possible additional safeguards or strengthen existing ones.

The FATF urges Iran to immediately and meaningfully address its AML/CFT deficiencies, in particular by criminalising terrorist financing and effectively implementing suspicious transaction reporting requirements. If Iran fails to take concrete steps to continue to improve its CFT regime, the FATF will consider calling on its members and urging all jurisdictions to strengthen counter-measures in February 2016.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

The FATF remains concerned by the DPRK's failure to address the significant deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime and the serious threat this poses to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF urges the DPRK to immediately and meaningfully address its AML/CFT deficiencies.

The FATF reaffirms its 25 February 2011 call on its members and urges all jurisdictions to advise their financial institutions to give special attention to business relationships and transactions with the DPRK, including DPRK companies and financial institutions. In addition to enhanced scrutiny, the FATF further calls on its members and urges all jurisdictions to apply effective counter-measures to protect their financial sectors from money laundering and financing of terrorism (ML/FT) risks emanating from the DPRK. Jurisdictions should also protect against correspondent relationships being used to bypass or evade counter-measures and risk mitigation practices, and take into account ML/FT risks when considering requests by DPRK financial institutions to open branches and subsidiaries in their jurisdiction.

Myanmar

Myanmar has taken important steps towards improving its AML/CFT regime, including by issuing AML and CFT Rules and strengthening customer due diligence requirements for the financial sector. However, despite Myanmar's high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and APG to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies, Myanmar has not made sufficient progress in implementing its action plan, and certain strategic deficiencies remain. Myanmar should continue to implement its action plan to address these deficiencies, including by: (1) adequately criminalising terrorist financing; (2) implementing the procedures to identify and freeze terrorist assets; and (3) ensuring an operationally independent and effectively functioning financial intelligence unit. The FATF encourages Myanmar to address the remaining deficiencies and continue the process of implementing its action plan.

Annex B: Improving Global AML/CFT Compliance: update on-going process – 23 October 2015

As part of its on-going review of compliance with the AML/CFT standards, the FATF has to date identified the following jurisdictions which have strategic AML/CFT deficiencies for which they have developed an action plan with the FATF. While the situations differ among each jurisdiction, each jurisdiction has provided a written high-level political commitment to address the identified deficiencies. The FATF welcomes these commitments.

A large number of jurisdictions have not yet been reviewed by the FATF. The FATF continues to identify additional jurisdictions, on an on-going basis, that pose a risk to the international financial system.

The FATF and the FATF-style regional bodies (FSRBs) will continue to work with the jurisdictions noted below and to report on the progress made in addressing the identified deficiencies. The FATF calls on these jurisdictions to complete the implementation of action plans expeditiously and within the proposed timeframes. The FATF will closely monitor the implementation of these action plans and encourages its members to consider the information presented below.

Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Iraq
Guyana
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Syria
Uganda
Yemen

Jurisdiction not making sufficient progress

Lao PDR

Jurisdictions no longer Subject to the FATF's On-Going AML/CFT Compliance Process

Ecuador
Sudan

Afghanistan

In June 2012, Afghanistan made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and APG to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies. Since June 2015, Afghanistan has taken steps towards improving its AML/CFT regime, including by issuing a fit and proper regulation for the financial sector, and cross-border declaration regulations for the physical

transportation of cash and bearer negotiable instruments. However, the FATF has determined that certain strategic deficiencies remain. Afghanistan should continue to implement its action plan, including by: (1) further implementing its legal framework for identifying, tracing and freezing terrorist assets; (2) implementing an adequate AML/CFT supervisory and oversight programme for all financial sectors; and (3) further establishing and implementing effective controls for cross-border cash transactions. The FATF encourages Afghanistan to address its remaining deficiencies and continue the process of implementing its action plan.

Algeria

Since October 2011, when Algeria made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and MENAFATF to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies, Algeria has made significant progress to improve its AML/CFT regime. Algeria has substantially addressed its action plan at a technical level, including by: (1) adequately criminalising terrorist financing; (2) establishing an adequate legal framework and procedures for identifying, tracing, and freezing terrorist assets; (3) improving and broadening customer due diligence (CDD) measures and ensuring that they apply to all financial institutions; (4) establishing a fully operational and effectively functioning financial intelligence unit ; and (5) enacting an appropriate provision for mutual legal assistance. The FATF will conduct an on-site visit to confirm that the process of implementing the required reforms and actions is underway to address deficiencies previously identified by the FATF.

Angola

Since June 2010 and February 2013, when Angola made high-level political commitments to work with the FATF and ESAAMLG to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies, Angola has made significant progress to improve its AML/CFT regime. Angola has substantially addressed its action plan at a technical level, including by: (1) adequately criminalising money laundering and terrorist financing; (2) establishing an adequate legal framework and procedures for the seizure and confiscation of funds related to money laundering and the identification and freezing of terrorist assets; (3) establishing a fully operational and effectively functioning financial intelligence unit; (4) improving CDD measures; (5) ensuring that an appropriate legal basis exists to provide AML/CFT-related mutual legal assistance; and (6) ratifying the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime. The FATF will conduct an on-site visit to confirm that the process of implementing the required reforms and actions is underway to address deficiencies previously identified by the FATF.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In June 2015, Bosnia and Herzegovina made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and MONEYVAL to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies. However, the FATF has determined that certain strategic deficiencies remain. Bosnia and Herzegovina should continue to implement its action plan to address these deficiencies, including by: (1) completing the criminalisation of terrorist financing; (2) establishing and implementing an adequate legal framework for freezing terrorist assets under UNSCR 1373; (3) implementing an adequate supervisory framework; (4) implementing adequate AML/CFT measures for the non-profit sector; (5) establishing and implementing adequate cross-border currency controls; (6) harmonising criminalisation of money laundering in all criminal codes; and (7)

ensuring adequate procedures for the confiscation of assets. The FATF encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to address its AML/CFT deficiencies by implementing its action plan.

Iraq

In October 2013, Iraq made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and MENAFATF to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies. Since June 2015, Iraq has taken steps towards improving its AML/CFT regime, including by obtaining Parliamentary approval of a new AML/CFT law. Due to the very recent nature of the law, the FATF has not yet assessed the law in order to determine the extent to which the new law addresses any of the following issues: (1) adequately criminalising money laundering and terrorist financing; (2) establishing and implementing an adequate legal framework and procedures for identifying and freezing terrorist assets; (3) ensuring that all financial institutions are subject to adequate customer due diligence requirements; (4) ensuring a fully operational and effectively functioning financial intelligence unit; (5) ensuring that all financial institutions are subject to adequate suspicious transaction reporting requirements; and (6) establishing and implementing an adequate AML/CFT supervisory and oversight programme for all financial sectors. The FATF encourages Iraq to address its remaining AML/CFT deficiencies and continue the process of implementing its action plan.

Guyana

In October 2014, Guyana made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and CFATF to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies. Since June 2015, Guyana has taken steps toward improving its AML/CFT regime, including by enacting the AML/CFT Amendment Act 2015. However, the FATF has determined that certain strategic deficiencies remain. Guyana should continue to implement its action plan, including by: (1) ensuring and implementing an adequate legal framework for identifying, tracing and freezing terrorist assets; (2) ensuring a fully operational and effectively functioning financial intelligence unit; (3) establishing effective measures for customer due diligence and enhancing financial transparency; and (4) implementing an adequate supervisory framework. The FATF encourages Guyana to address its remaining deficiencies and continue the process of implementing its action plan.

Panama

Since June 2014, when Panama made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and GAFILAT to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies, Panama has made significant progress to improve its AML/CFT regime. Panama has substantially addressed its action plan at a technical level, including by: (1) adequately criminalising money laundering and terrorist financing; (2) establishing and implementing an adequate legal framework for freezing terrorist assets; (3) establishing effective measures for customer due diligence in order to enhance transparency; (4) establishing a fully operational and effectively functioning financial intelligence unit; (5) establishing suspicious transaction reporting requirements for all financial institutions and DNFBPs; and (6) ensuring effective mechanisms for international co-operation. The FATF will conduct an on-site visit to confirm that the process of implementing the required reforms and actions is underway to address deficiencies previously identified by the FATF.

Papua New Guinea

In February 2014, Papua New Guinea made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and APG to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies. Since June 2015, Papua New Guinea has taken steps towards improving its AML/CFT regime, including by obtaining Parliamentary approval of a Criminal Code Amendment, an AML/CFT law, establishing a legal framework to require the freezing of terrorist assets and a cross-border declaration system. PNG will need to bring these laws into force and the final text should be reviewed by the FATF. Therefore, the FATF has not yet determined the extent to which they address any of the following issues: (1) adequately criminalising money laundering and terrorist financing; (2) establishing and implementing adequate procedures for the confiscation of assets related to money laundering; (3) establishing and implementing an adequate legal framework for identifying, tracing and freezing terrorist assets; (4) establishing a fully operational and effectively functioning financial intelligence unit; (5) establishing suspicious transaction reporting requirements; (6) implementing an adequate AML/CFT supervisory and oversight programme for all financial sectors; and (7) establishing and implementing effective controls for cross-border currency transactions. The FATF encourages Papua New Guinea to bring the law into force and continue the process of implementing its action plan.

Syria

Since February 2010, when Syria made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and MENAFATF to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies, Syria has made progress to improve its AML/CFT regime. In June 2014, the FATF determined that Syria had substantially addressed its action plan at a technical level, including by criminalising terrorist financing and establishing procedures for freezing terrorist assets. While the FATF determined that Syria has completed its action plan agreed upon with the FATF, due to the security situation, the FATF has been unable to conduct an on-site visit to assess whether the process of implementing the required reforms and actions is underway. The FATF will continue to monitor the situation, and will conduct an on-site visit at the earliest possible date.

Uganda

In February 2014, Uganda made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and ESAAMLG to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies. However, the FATF has determined that strategic deficiencies remain. Uganda should therefore continue to work on addressing the following deficiencies: (1) adequately criminalising terrorist financing; (2) establishing and implementing an adequate legal framework and set of procedures for identifying and freezing terrorist assets; (3) ensuring that all financial institutions are subject to adequate record-keeping requirements; (4) establishing a fully operational and effectively functioning financial intelligence unit; (5) ensuring adequate suspicious transaction reporting requirements; (6) ensuring an adequate and effective AML/CFT supervisory and oversight programme for all financial sectors; and (7) ensuring that appropriate laws and procedures are in place with regard to international co-operation for the financial intelligence unit and supervisory authorities. The FATF encourages Uganda to address its remaining AML/CFT deficiencies, including adequately criminalising terrorist financing, and continue the process of implementing its action plan.

Yemen

Since February 2010, when Yemen made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and MENAFATF to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies, Yemen has made progress to improve its AML/CFT regime. In June 2014, the FATF determined that Yemen had substantially addressed its action plan at a technical level, including by adequately criminalising money laundering and terrorist financing; establishing procedures to identify and freeze terrorist assets; improving its customer due diligence and suspicious transaction reporting requirements; issuing guidance; developing the monitoring and supervisory capacity of the financial sector supervisory authorities and the financial intelligence unit; and establishing a fully operational and effectively functioning FIU. While the FATF determined that Yemen has completed its action plan agreed upon with the FATF, due to the security situation, the FATF has been unable to conduct an on-site visit to assess whether the process of implementing the required reforms and actions is underway. The FATF will continue to monitor the situation, and conduct an on on-site visit at the earliest possible date.

Jurisdictions not making sufficient progress

The FATF is not yet satisfied that the following jurisdiction has made sufficient progress on its action plan agreed upon with the FATF. The most significant action plan items and/or the majority of the action plan items have not been addressed. If this jurisdiction does not take sufficient action to implement significant components of its action plan by February 2016, then the FATF will identify this jurisdiction as being out of compliance with its agreed action plan and will take the additional step of calling upon its members to consider the risks arising from the deficiencies associated with the jurisdiction.

Lao PDR

Despite the Lao PDR's high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and APG to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies, the FATF is not yet satisfied that the Lao PDR has made sufficient progress in improving its AML/CFT regime, and certain strategic AML/CFT deficiencies remain. The Lao PDR should continue to work on implementing its action plan to address these deficiencies, including by: (1) adequately criminalising money laundering and terrorist financing; (2) establishing and implementing adequate procedures for the confiscation of assets related to money laundering; (3) establishing and implementing an adequate legal framework for identifying, tracing and freezing terrorist assets; (4) establishing suspicious transaction reporting requirements; (5) implementing an adequate AML/CFT supervisory and oversight programme for all financial sectors; and (6) implementing effective controls for cross-border currency transactions. The FATF encourages the Lao PDR to address its AML/CFT deficiencies and continue the process of implementing its action plan.

Jurisdictions no Longer Subject to the FATF's On-Going Global AML/CFT Compliance Process

Ecuador

The FATF welcomes Ecuador's significant progress in improving its AML/CFT regime and notes that Ecuador has established the legal and regulatory framework to meet its commitments in its action plan regarding the strategic deficiencies that the FATF had identified in June 2010. Ecuador is therefore no longer subject to the FATF's monitoring process under its on-going global AML/CFT compliance process. Ecuador will work with GAFILAT as it continues to address the full range of AML/CFT issues identified in its mutual evaluation report.

Sudan

The FATF welcomes Sudan's significant progress in improving its AML/CFT regime and notes that Sudan has established the legal and regulatory framework to meet its commitments in its action plan regarding the strategic deficiencies that the FATF had identified in February 2010. Sudan is therefore no longer subject to the FATF's monitoring process under its on-going global AML/CFT compliance process. Sudan will work with MENAFATF as it continues to address the full range of AML/CFT issues identified in its mutual evaluation report.

- ENDS -